









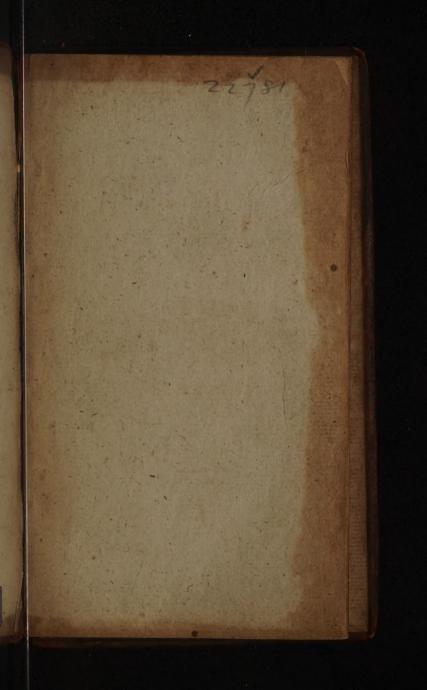
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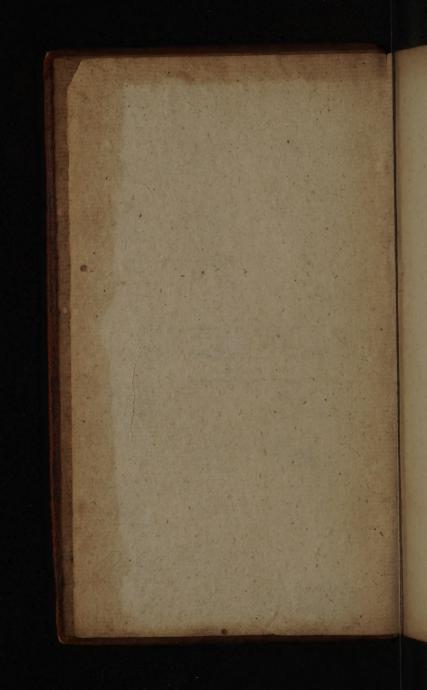
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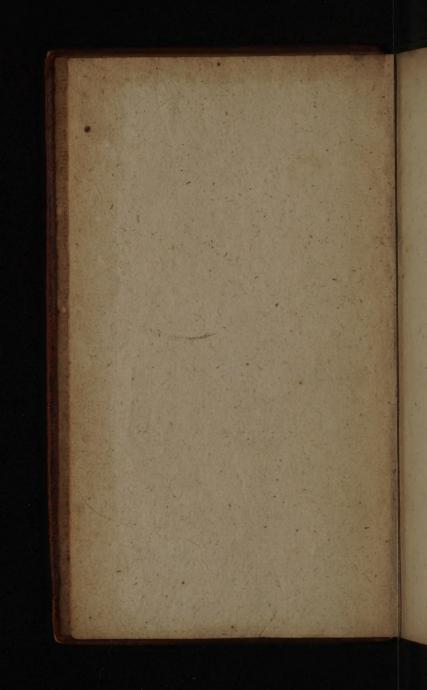
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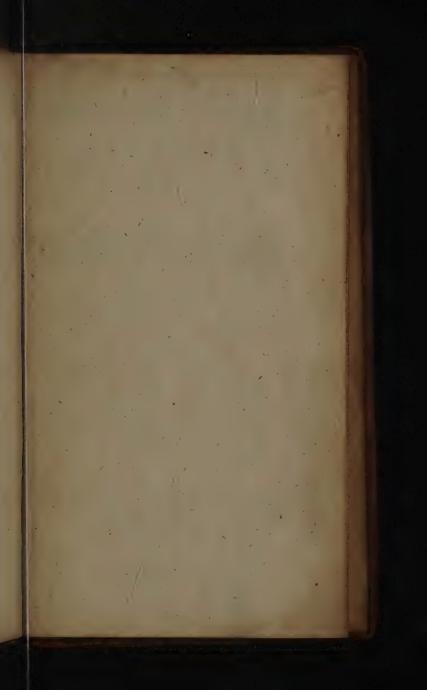
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### Curiolities in Chymatry:

BEING NEW

### EXPERIMENTS

AND

# Observations

Concerning the

## PRINCIPLES

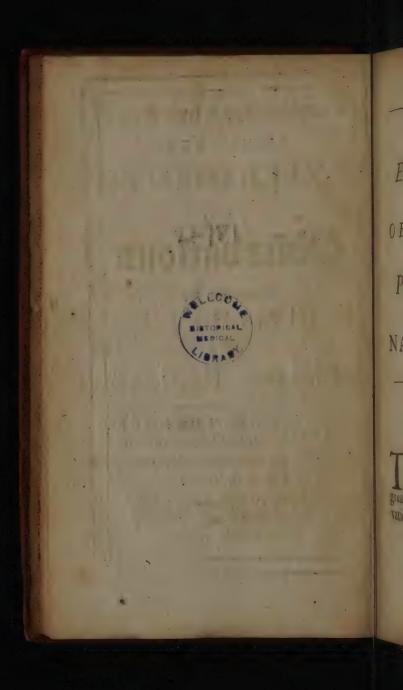
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Natural Bodies.

Written by a Person of HONOUR, and Published by his Operator, H. G.

#### LONDON

Printed by H.C. for Stafford Anson, at the Three Pigeons in St. Paul's Church-yard, 1691.



### NEW EXPERIMENTS

AND

OBSERVATIONS

Concerning the

PRINCIPLES

OF

NATURAL BODIES.

### The Introduction.

HE Ingenious Author of this
Treatife has herein laid a
great many Experiments and Observations together, in order to prove
B that

rinciple of Natural Bodies; and that all the other pretended Hypostatical Principles are ultimate and reducible into mere Elementary Water. Wherefore to give a brief and perspicuous account of his Reasonings upon this Subject, he has thought it expedient to reduce them to the following Propositions.

Sect. I. The Ardent Spirits of Vegetables are nothing else but the Oleous Particles of these Vegetables subtilized by Fermentation, and thereby dissolved in, and united to some part of their own Phlegm.

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FOR Lavender, Rue, Marjoram, &c. difilled without addition, and without a previous Fermentation, afford an Oyl, but never yield any burning Spirit. Whereas after Fermentation they yield an ardent Spirit, but no Oyl; which is a manifest proof, that the inflamable Oyl is converted into an inflamable Spirit: especially, since by the lasting action of the Air upon this Spirit, the Oleous part will at last be brought to separate it self from the phlegm and

and fwim above it. Moreover if you pour Oyls in small quantity upon Fermenting Vegetables, they will come over in Distilla-

tion in the form of Spirits.

As for the Spirits of Aniseeds, Wormwood, and fuch other Oleous and Aromatick Vegetables, that are prepared with Spirit of Wine without any previous Fermentation; they are nothing else but the Oyls of these Vegetables that the Spirit of Wine has imbibed and carried up along with it in Distillation. For this Spirit, being it felf no other thing than the Oyl of Wine Dissolv'd in Phlegm, will prefently imbibe any Aromatick Oyl dropt into it. Hence it is, that, in the Preparation of Spirit of Aniseeds, the Oleous part of the Spirit of Wine imbibes as much of their Oyl as it can receive, and the rest (for they abound with Oyl) being joyn'd with the Phlegmatick part of the Spirit of Wine, compose a Milk-coloured Liquor, (as all Oyls do when they are mixed with Water, which we fee daily in the Preparation of Emulions) whose Oily parts may be imbibed by fresh Spirit of Wine, and by that means yield Spirit of Aniseeds anewis sixt Boom at on

Finally, 'tis upon the account of their Oleous nature, that ardent Spirits are fo Inflamable; and that they fo much weaken

the Corroding Acidity of Aqua fortis, as to render it innocent enough to be taken inwardly, though they themselves be endowed with a certain Volatile Acid.

Sect. II. The Spirits of Vegetables, wade by Incineration, are nothing else but the Volatile Salts of the Tartar of these Plants, dissolved in their own Phlegm.

COR they consist of the Effluvia that 1 ascend from the Plants, while their Tartar is a Calcining into a fixt Salt, kept from flying away into the Air, by reason of the peculiar structure of the Furnaces, &c. imployed in this kind of Incineration: and are therefore altogether of the same nature with Spirit of Soot, or even with the genuine bitterish Alcaline Spirit of Tartar of Wine. N.B. Since in the Juice of Grapes, the Alcali and Acid, mutually Coagulated, obtain the name of Tartar, Why should not the fame Salts, con-coagulated in the Juices of other Vegetables, though endowed with very different Seeds, obtain the fame Appellation, rather than that of Efsential Salts? For there is really, in the Juices of all Vegetables, a Tartar not unlike to that of Wine. So that the Spirits, prepared by the Incineration of Plants, do, like

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like that of Vinous Tartar, proceed from the Tartars of these Plants; which seeing they consist of the same Salts, namely Alcaly and Acid, those Spirits are indeed nothing else but these Salts in a Fluid state. Hence if genuine Spirit of Tartar be drawn off from an Alcalisate Salt, the Volatile Acid being lest in the fixt Alcaly, it will strike your Nose with the pungent scent of a Volatile Urinous Salt.

Sect. III. The Alcaline Urinous Spirits of Animals are nothing else, but the Volatile Salts of these Animals, dissolved in a little of their own Phlegm.

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or any other Urinous Spirit, well rectified, into a glass conveniently shaped, a gentle heat will sublime good store of dry Volatile Salt into the slender neck of the Glass, leaving a weak Phlegmatick Liquor in the bottom; which would be mere insipid Phlegm, if it could be perfectly freed from the Volatile Salt that 'tis yet impregnated with, and from the subtle Particles of Oyl that generally, if not constantly, ascend together with these Spirits, and continue invisibly mixed with them (though never so well rectified, even to a perfect

perfect transparency) for a long time, till at length by the action of the Air, or evaporation of the Volatile Salt (if the Glass be not very well stop'd) or the intestine motion of the parts of the Liquor, though it be, the Particles of Oyl begin to seperate themselves from the rest of the Liquor, and gather together into numerous little drops, which, though they be fingly invisible, yet render the whole Liquor muddy and of a reddish colour. 2. In the Distillation, for instance, of Fermented Urine, or of Sal Armoniack mingled with a fixt Salt, usually the Volatile Salt sublimes at first in a dry form; but if you continue the Distillation, so much of the Phlegm will afcend as shall dissolve all your Volatile Salt, and wash it it down into the Receiver, where you have it in the form of a Spirit. 3. If you dissolve, in common Water Distilled, as much Volatile Salt of Human Blood (for instance) as it will take up, and Distil this mixture, you will by that means obtain a Liquor. that by its smell, tast, and divers Operations, appears to be a good brisk Spirit of Human Blood; as that incomparable promoter of Experimental Philosophy, Mr. Boyle, has observed in his late useful Treatile about Human Blood.

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The same is to be said of the Alcaline Spirits, that are Distilled from Peas, Beans, and some other Vegetables: For they appear by divers effects to be much of the same nature with Urinous Spirits.]

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Sect. IV. The Acid Spirits of Minerals (as Sea-salt, Vitriol, Sulphur, &c.) are nothing else but the Acid Salts of these Minerals freed from the more Terrestrial Parts, united with a little Phleom, and so reduced into a fluid state by the force of the sire.

FOR you may reduce them to a dry Salt by pouring them upon an Alcaly. For instance, Spirit of Vitriol, after it has been imployed to corrode Iron, and the superfluous moisture evaporated, recorporifies into Vitriol. And Spirit of Nitre, satisfied with Salt of Tartar or any other fixt Salt, turns into Nitre again after evaporation. Moreover these Acid Spirits are often found upon the Corks (that stop the Glasses wherein they are kept) in a dry saline form.

The same is to be said of the Acid Spirits of Vegetables, as that of Vinegar, Tartar, Guaiac, &c. which are nothing else but

Essential Salts dissolved in Phlegm.

Sect. V. The Oyls or Sulphurs of Vegetables are nothing else but Volatile Salts concentrated, in union with an unctuous inflamable Acid; which by its unctuosity hinders them to mix readily with Water, as all Salts use to do.

Herefore Helmont often affirms, that Vegetable Oyls may be turned into Volatile Salts. But however that be, being joyned with fixt Salts, they turn into 2 Soap; and if they be frequently drawn off, they are thereby at last resolved into mere Elementary Water: which is also true of all Fermented ardent Spirits, fince they are but Oyls dissolved in Phlegm. Thus Spirit of Wine, drawn off from Salt of Tartar, leaves its seminal Acid behind it, and comes over weak and Phlegmatick: and if this abstraction be often reiterated, it is thereby at length resolved into pure Elementary Water, as will be more fully declared hereafter.

There is a certain Vegetable Sulphur, found in Charcoals before they be burnt to ashes, by vertue whereof they glow. It is separated by means of Alcali's and Precipitation. This Sulphur is of a golden colour, and of no contemptible use: but

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if the Charcoal be Distilled in a Retort with an open fire, it turns, like all other Sulphurs, into an Acid Spirit, which being poured upon the fixt Salt of the Caput mortuum, makes an effervescence with it, and so is Coagulated into a Salt.

Sect. VI. The Sulphurs of Animals, namely Oyl and Fat, are also nothing else but Volatile Abcaline Salts concentrated, and somewhat suppressed by an occult Acid (that is not manifest to sense) so that they cannot make any Effervescence with manifest Acids.

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THE SE Volatile Salts may be discovered after the very same manner with those of Vegetable Oyls. Yea, sometimes Dogs-grease, for instance, exposed in a Glass to the Sun, sublimes into a Volatile Salt without any other art: and 'tis, upon the sole account of this Volatile Salt, that it has been sound beneficial to the exulcerated Lungs of Consumptive persons. The Oyl of Harts-horn also may be sublimed into a Volatile Salt.

Sect. VII. The Acid Oyls of Minerals (as Vitriol, Sulphur, Allom, Sea-falt, &c.) are not true Oyls, but Acid Salts concentrated; and differ not from the fore-mentioned Acid Spirits of the same Minerals, but in that they are less diluted with Phlegm.

Sect. VIII. All Mineral Sulphurs, if they be kindled, turn into a very Acid saline Spirit.

THE fixt incombustible Sulphurs of Metals, that Helmont speaks of, are (if there be any such Sulphurs) reducible into a Salt, since the same Author informs us, that the Metals themselves may be totally reduced to an æquiponderant Salt, and this into inspid Water.

As for the Earthy part of Natural Bodies, being useless and of no activity, it scarcely uses to be reckoned amongst the Principles. And however Helmont informs us, that the Liquor Alcabust turns this Earth into Water, by depriving it of its Essence, z. e.

of its feminal vertue.

From what has been faid it appears that all those substances, that the vulgar Chymists obtain from Bodies by the Fire, and

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ftyle Principles, are reducible to Salts and and Phlegm (or Water.) Now our ingenious Author goes on to prove, at great length, that even,

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JERE first of all 'tis to be acknow-Iedged, that Salts do naturally exist in Bodies before they have suffered the Fire: although in many Bodies, as Woods, Flints, &c. the Salts are so bound up, by reason of the close contexture of the Parts of these Bodies, that they cannot easily be put into motion and dissolved, and thereforedo not affect the Organs of tast, 'till the concretion of the Parts be dissolved, and the scattered saline Particles be brought together and Colliquated by the Fire. Nor is it true, that the Terrestrial Particles are turned into Salts by the Operation of the Fire: for, Why is it then that Ashes, once Elixiviated, will not yield one grain more of Salt, though you Calcine them again? Why do not any Terrestrial Particles acquire a faline tast by the Operation of the Fire? But yet,

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Sect. X. The fixt Salts of Vegetables, prepared by Calcination, were not naturally preexistent in that form, but are produced of the Volatile Salts, colliquated amongst themselves and with the Earthy Particles, by the force of the Fire.

T 1S true, there naturally exists, in the Juice of Grapes and of all other Vegetables, a Tartar fo fixt as to be inodorous, and to endure the Air (though not the Fire) without flying away. Which fixtness proceeds from the Acid, that faturates the Volatile Alcali of this Tartar; as we see in the Volatile Salt of Urine. Soot, Ge. which being fatiated with Spirit of Salt, are thereby fixed into Sal-Armoniack, that has no fmell. The Fermentation of the Juices, pressed out of Apples, Pears, &c. is a manifest proof of this Tartarous Salt; for there can be no Fermentation without Acid and Alcaly, which are the constituent Principles of Tartar. But there is no Salt, pre-existent to Calcination in any Vegetable, fo fixt as' to endure the Fire as well as the Air. For,

first, the ordinary way of preparing fixt Salts, is, by burning the dried Vegeta-

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bles to Ashes in an open Fire, Lixiviating these Ashes by decoction in common Water, and exposing this Lee to some heat. 'till the greatest part of the Water being Evaporated, the faline Particles, formerly dispersed in the Pores of the Liquor, unite together for want of room into Crystals, of different Figures; according to the diversity of the seminal Acid. Others Distill a certain Acid feminal Spirit from the Plant, reduced to Ashes by a moderate Fire, and Lixiviate the Salt that remains in the retort with this Spirit. Again others, inftead of this Acid, cast a little Sulphur upon the Salt, when tis highly Calcined, whose seminal Acid gives a certain form to the Salt, in place of that which the extreme Calcination had destroyed; lest, if the Salt were wholly destitute of a seminal Acid, it should resolve into Elementary Water, as shall be made out hereafter. But Tachenius's method is the best; namely, to reduce the Plants, whilst they are fresh and green, into black Ashes with a very gentle . Fire, fo as they may not break out into a manifest slame; to Calcine these Ashes to whiteness in an Earthen Pot over the fire. stirring them ever now and then; after this to Lixiviate them with common Water; to evaporate the Lee to the confiftence

of Honey; then to urge it with a moderate Fire to browness: and last of all to dissolve and Chrystallise it. One pound of Ashes, prepared after this manner, will yield near four ounces of very pure fixt Salt: whereas four pound Calcined by the former methods, will scarce yield one ounce. The reason of so great a difference, depends partly upon the greenness of the Plants, and partly upon the moderateness of the Fire imployed to Calcine them. For dried Plants (for instance Wormwood) do always afford less fixt Salt than green ones; whence it manifestly follows, that by Exhiccation some Saline Particles are carried away with the Aqueous ones, which would have composed a part of the fixt Salt, if the Plant had been Calcined while it was green: now these Salts could not fly away unless they were Volatile: Again, as the Volatile Salts of a Plant are spent by the action of the Air in Exsiccation, so are they likewise by the action of the Fire in Calcination; and this fo much the more, by how much the Fire is more violent; for the Particles of a manifest flame, being in exceeding quick motion, excite the Volatile Salts to a swifter motion, and confequently a more copious avolation, than those of a gentle smothering Fire. Secondly,

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Secondly, If you take the Soot that ascends in the Calcination of Tartar, (otherwise called the Spirit of Tartar,) and put it back again to the Caput mortuum, you will thereby much increase the quantity of the fixt Salt: And if all the Volatile faline Particles of Tartar could be kept from flying away in Calcination, they would all turn into a fixt Salt. But if all of them were driven away, 'twere not possible to obtain one grain of fixt Salt: which yet never happens, because they cannot all fly away at once, but one after another; so that those, which were to fly away last, are by reason of their longer stay in the fire, Colliquated, and fo fixed; and that partly by the Acid Particles that feed the flame (and condense the smoak into Soot) and partly by the Earthy Particles, commixed with the Volatile Salts that are Coagulated in the Fire.

Thirdly, 'Tis impossible to extract one grain of fixt Salt from any Vegetable, not yet calcined to Ashes, that is, so long as there remains any smoke, or the least motion, of the Vegetable Particles (such as we see in glowing Charcoal;) but when this motion ceases, 'tis a sign that all the remaining Particles are Coagulated and fixed.

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Fourthly, Soot is nothing else but a hear of Volatile Particles Coagulated together, and yet by Calcination it affords a confiderable quantity of fixt Salt; which must proceed from the Colliquation of the Volatile Salts, since there can be none but fuch in Soot: for fixt Salts are fo constant in the Fire that they cannot ascend in the form of Flame or Smoak, and confequently cannot enter the composition of Soot. And that the Salts of Soot are Volatile, is also manifest from hence, that, by means of Spirit of Salt, they may be turned to Sal-Armoniack, and confequently ( when the Acid Spirit is separated by the addition of a fixed Alcali) into a Volatile and highly Urinous Salt. So that the matter of which the fixt Salt of Soot confifts, are these Volatile Salts of Soot, one Acid and another Urinous, Colliquated together and with the Terrestrial Particles, by the force of the Fire. Nor can it be faid, that the fixt Salt of Soot was carried up by the Volatile; for (belides that there was no fixt Salt pre-existent in the mixt Body) by this means it would be no more a fixt but a Volatile Salt: and if we confider the proportion of the fixt Salt of Soot to the weight of the Soot it felf, it will eafily appear, that Soot contains not enough of Volatile. heap

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Volatile Salt to elevate fuch a quantity of Fixt, since that ought to exceed this almost in a triple proportion. Thus though if you mingle fixt Salt of Tartar, with a sufficient proportion of its own, or any other, Volatile Salt, and commit this mixture to fublimation, our Author denies not but that some parts of the fixt Salt will be elevated by the other Salt; yet he affirms, that these are not integral parts, but have lost the nature of a fixt Salt, and are really turned into a Volatile one, because this sublimation separates them from the Terrestial Particles, their union with which was the only thing that kept them in a fixt state. In the like manner Spirit of Wine, being digested with fixt Salt of Tartar, and drawn off by Distillation, carries along with it some of the saline Particles (whence it is faid to be Tartaris'd, ) but no Terrestrial ones, and consequently no fixt Salt but a Volatile. Again, as 'tis impossible to obtain one grain of fixt Salt from Soot, before a violent Calcination, so the quantity of the fixt Salt is increased by all the same methods that restrain the Volatile from slying away in this Calcination: namely if it be Calcined in a close Vessel, with an intense Fire at the beginning, (that the Volatile Salts may be the sooner colliquated, before they can have time to fly away) then beaten, and kept flirring over the Fire 'till it be of a cineritious colour. The Soot also, that ascends in the Calcination of Soot, being put back again to the Caput Mortuum, increases the quantity of the fixt Salt.

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Fifthly, What foever separates the Terre-Strial parts from any fixt Salt, does at the Same time destroy its Fixity, and Volatilise the saline parts. Which our Author makes out by several Experiments. 1. If you pour Spirit of Salt, by degrees, upon a Lee of Salt of Tartar, (or of any other Alcalifate Salt,) 'till it be almost satiated. (which is known by the abating of the Effervescence,) you shall observe a kind of Earth precipitate out of the fixt Salt, (namely because, upon the mutual conflict, between an Acid and an Alcali, what soever heterogeneous substance is contained in either of them uses to precipitate.) The Earthy part of the Salt of Tartar being thus separated, the saline part is thereby render'd Volatile, and would actually fly away, were it not for the Acid that fixes it anew: and if you separate this Acid, by the addition of new Salt of Tartar, it will by this means be fet at liberty, and strike your Nostrils with an Urinous odour. Thus, if you separate the Liquor from the precipitated Earth

Earth by Filtration, then reduce it to Crystals by evaporation, and last of all, mingle an equal quant ity of Salt of Tartar, with these Crystals in a Mortar; the rit Spirit will joyn it felf to this new Salt of Tartar, and fo the Volatile Alcali, being freed from the Acid, flies away. Nor can it be said, that the forementioned Earth did but externally adhere to the Salt of Tartar, and was not intimately united with it by Colliquation; fince the experiment fucceeds with Oyl of Tartar per deliquium, though it be clear and limpid like Rockwater; but observe, that the Earth does not fall out of the Pores of the Oyl of Tartar, 'till the Salts have attain'd the point of faturation, and then the Liquor, that was lympid before, begins to look troubled; and when the Glass has stood a while, a whitish colour'd substance settles to the bottom. But the Volatile Salt, that is feparated from the Oyl of Tartar, is weaker than that which is separated from the dry Salt; because Salts approach so much the nearer to the nature of Elementary Water, by how much the easier they run per deliquium. 2. In the very same manner, and for the same reason, a Volatile Urinous Salt may be obtain'd from the Caput mortuum of Sal-Armoniac, by the ad. dition

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dition of new fixt Salt. For in Sal-Armoniack there is a somewhat fixt Acid Spirit, combined with the Volatile Salt Urine and Soot; which Acid, being imbib'd by the Salt of Tartar, (that is mingled with the Sal-Armoniack immediately before Distillation, ) the Volatile Salt is set at liberty, and presently flies away. And in the mean time, the forementioned Acid dissolves the Union, between the Earthy and Saline Particles of the Salt of Tartar, and thereby renders the faline ones Volatile; which therefore, so soon as they are freed from this Acid, by the addition of new Salt of Tartar to the Caput mortuum, do presently ascend, even without Fire, with a most piercing Urinous odour. And even from this fecond Caput mortuum you may obtain a Volatile Salt, by the addition of a third portion of Salt of Tartar. 3. The Volatilisation of Salt of Tartar, by the help of Vinegar, depends upon the fame Principle. For they pour Vinegar upon the Salt of Tartar, and draw it off very Phlegmatick; for the Acid Salt is left in the Salt of Tartar. Then they pour on fresh Vinegar, and abstract it as before; and reiterate this Operation so often, 'till the Vinegar came over as Acid as when it was poured on: which is a fign that the Salt rmo-

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Salt of Tartar is now fatiated with the Acid of the Vinegar, and consequently Volatilis'd by the separation of the Earth that fix'd it. For if you pour Vinegar upon the Lee of Tartar, to the point of faturation, the Earth of the Tartar will prefently precipitate. 4. The Preparation of Ballam of Samech is of no small affinity to this; namely, the Volatilisation of Salt of Tartar, by a frequent abstraction of Spirit of Wine from it. For the Spirit that is first poured on, though it were highly rectified, comes off Phlegmatick, with very great loss of its igneous vertue; because 'tis in great part turned into a Water, by being rob'd of its seminal Acid. But, so soon as the Salt of Tartar is fully fatiated with this Acid, (which cannot be without reiterating the abstraction of fresh Spirit a great many times, fince Salt of Tartar requires a great quantity of the strongest Vinegar to satiate it, though the Acidity of Vinegar be manifest and more fixt. whereas that of Spirit of Wine is occult and Volatile, ) and the Spirit comes off without loss of strength, the Alcali of the Tartar is found to have been Volatilis'd, by being separated from the Earth that fix'd it. Hence you may observe a sweetness in the Spirit of Wine Tartarised,

which argues, that the Acid Particles of the Spirit are Converted into sweet ones, by being Coagulated in the Alcalifate ones of the Salt of Tartar that afcend with them; in like manner as when Vinegar is Coagulated in Saturn or Mars. N.B. 'Tis not necessary, in this Operation, to separate the Acid from the Volatilis'd Alcaly, before this Alcaly can be made to afcend, as it was in the Experiments made with Spirit of Salt and Vinegar; because the Acid of the Spirit of Wine is much more Volatile than that of Spirit of Salt or Vinegar, and therefore, tho' it be Coagulated in the Volatilis'd Alcaly, yet it hinders not it's Volatility. 5. The same Observation holds of Oyl of Cinnamon (and the like Distil'd Oyls) which being long Digested and Circulated with it's own Fixt Salt, Volatilizes it, and is together with it totally converted into a Volatile Salt, if Helmont rightly informs us. And 'tis easy to understand the reason of this, if we confider that there is an Acid in all distill'd Oyls, as well as in Spirit of Wine and all other Inflamable Substances; which we shall manifestly prove hereafter. 6. In the Fermentation of Salt of Tartar with its own proper Ferment, namely Crude Tartar; the Acid

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of the latter Precipitates the Earth of the former; (from eight ounces of each the Author has feen two Drams of Earth feparated ) but the Volatilis'd Alcaly, being kept under the power of this Acid, does not yet manifest it self: so that the Volatile Urinous Salt which is obtain'd from hence, does not fo much proceed from the Salt of Tartar, as from the Crude Tartar, on which the Salt of Tartar operates in this case, much after the same manner as it uses to do as Sal-Armoniac. Which is the more probable, because a very piercing Urinous Salt may be obtain'd from Crude Tartar alone, without any Salt of Tartar, only by the addition of an equal weight of Crude Alum, as Dan. Ludovicus informs us. 7. Oyl of Tartar per deliquium, digested with Flowers of Sulphur in a gentle. heat, emits Particles extremely Urinous; which effect the Author attributes to the Acid of the Sulphur: and adds, that, having had occasion to reduce fatid Oyl-of Harts-horn into a foap with a certain Alcalifate Salt, the Glass grew warm without any External Heat, and a strong Urinous Odour pierc'd his Nose. [ I am apt to think that this Odour came not from the Alcalisate Salt, as the Author seems to believe, but from the Oyl of Harts-horn, C 4

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which without doubt contains an Urinous Salt in it. And if it contain an Acid also, as the Author thinks it does, the Incalescence might proceed from some conflict betwixt this & the Alcalisate Salt, which being united together, the Urinous Salt was perhas thereby fet at liberty from the Acid that formerly detain'd it. The like Odour is obfervable in the Salt produc'd by frequent abstraction of Spirit of Wine from Salt of Tartar: Where the Author observes that fome, after they have several times pour'd Spirit of Wine upon warm Salt of Tartar and abstracted it again, do last of all pour on Oyl of Vitriol, and then obtain the Volatile Salt by the addition of fresh Salt of Tartar. Which Experiment, tho' the Author has not try'd, yet he judges it may fucceed; fince the Terestrial parts of the Salt of Tartar may be separated by the Oyl of Vitriol, and the Alcaline parts, being united with this Acid, may be fet at liberty by the addition of new Salt of Tartar.

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Here the Author takes occasion to discourse of the Vertues of Salt of Tartar Volatilis'd, and affirms that it has no peculiar Effects, (neither in the Curing of Discasses, nor in the Dissolution of Bodies,) but what other Urinous Salts do likewise produce.

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produce. But yet he acknowledges a Specifick Difference between them, upon the account of the Seed in the Acid of Tartar, which differs from the eeds of other Acids: and in this respect other Urinous Salts do also differ from one another; since the renowned Boyl has observ'd, that the Volatil Salt of Harts-horn resembles a Parallelopiped, but that of Human Blood, digested with Spirit of Wine, is like a Rhombus. This diversity of Figure is owing to the different Seeds or Idea's, as residing in the Acids, that are the causes of the Solidity and Coagulation of these Salt:sWherefore the Fixt Salt of Tartar Cristallis'd does also resemble a Khombus, because the Seminal Acid of this Salt, is of the fame kind with that of the Spirit of Wine, which being ftronger than the Seminal Acid of the foremention'd Volatile Salt of Blood, this Salt is Coagulated according to the Idea of the Vinous Acid: even as, when Spirit of Nitre is pour'd upon Salt of Tartar, the Acid of the former being the more powerfull, forms the Crystals of an Oblong figure like Nitre, but not like Salt of Tartar, which resembles a Rhombus. The Author concludes, that this Seminal difference of Volatile Alcalies is of little moment in Medicine, fince all Alcalies,

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even the purest, are endow'd with so much of a Seminal Acid, as does indeed preferve them from a Spontaneous resolution, into Elementary Water, but yet hinders them not from being in a capacity to imbibe this or that Hostile Morbisic Acid indifferently. The same thing is to be said of the fixt Alcalisate Salts of Vegetables, for the Seminal Vertues are lost in the Calcination, and there remains only so much of a seminal Acid, as keeps them from relapsing into Elementary Water, and does indeed cause them to differ specifically from one another, but not to produce different Effects in Medicine.

From all the foremention'd Particulars, concerning the Volatilifing of Fixt Salts, our Author concludes, that there can never be any Method found out to effect it, but by separating the Terrestrial Particles. As for Zwelfers Volatile Salt of Tartar, prepar'd by often reiterated Solutions (per deliquium) and Abstractions, he affirms that 'tis nothing else but useless Elementary Water; as will manifestly appear to him that considers, that Alcalifate Salts are fundamentally nothing else but Aqueous Particles, converted by a little Seminal Acid into rigid Salts, which, as soon as the Acid is destroy'd, turn again into Water:

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wherefore the more violent the Calcination is, and by confequence the greater your loss is of this feminal Acid, they are the more easily resolv'd per deliquium in moist Air, which by it's vertue, as a Menstruum, does in great part consume the little Acid that remains, and thereby resolve a great part of the Alcalifate Salt into Elementary Water, wherein the other Particles, not yet depriv'd of their Seed, do fwim, (for when Salts approach to the nature of Water, they are readily dissolved in it;) but if the Water be abstracted from them, and they expos'd to the Air again, their remaining Acid is destroy'd, and they resolv'd into Water in great part: and if they run per deliquium and be abstracted often enough, all the Seminal Acid will be at length destroy'd, and nothing remain but bare Elementary Water, which will all of it easily ascend. And by this means any Fixt Alcalisate Salt may be totally reduc'd into Elementary Water.

Sect. XI. THE Volatile Salts of Vegetables, fince they are the Matter of which (Colliquated with the Acid and Terrestrial Particles) the Alcalisate Salts consist; And the Volatile Salts of Animals, since (as the Author has prov'd) they differ not essentially from those of Vegetables; are both of them ultimately reducible into Elementary Water.

Sect. XII. A C1D Salts, made fluid by the force of Fire, and drawn off from fixt Alcalies, may be thereby fo rob'd of their Acid, that nothing will ascend but Elementary Water. And the Alcalifate Salt, that has imbib'd the Acid, being frequently resolv'd per deliquium and the Phlegmatic part as frequently abstracted, may by this means be at length totally converted into pure Elementary Water.

Thus the Author having particular ly examin'd the pretended Chymical principles, and found them all ultimately reducible into Elementary Water; Concludes that

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Sect. XIII. A L L Mixt Bodies are made up of Water, as the only first Material Principle and Seeds ( which differ according to the differing (pecies of Bodies) as the Formal Principle, united together by means of Acid Ferments: That is to fay, Water is Coagulated into a Plant, by the Ferment of a Vegetable Seed; into a Metal, Stone, &c. by that of a Mineral Seed; and into Flesh, Bones, Go. by the Ferment of an Animal Seed. For in all Mixt Bodies there are certain Acid Particles, wherein the Seeds or Ideas of Natural things do reside, and which, in Coagulating the approximated Aliment, do follow the draught of these Ideas, and so are thereby determin'd to give it the form of this or the other Vegetable Mineral, or Animal. Thus in a Mans Stomach, for example, there lurks a certain Acid, that discovers it self by the four belches of healthy men, and by the Vomiting of Coagulated Milk, tho'it were taken fluid. This Acid easily receives the Alcalical Particles of the Meat extracted by (the Alcalical Menstruum) the Spittle, and imprints the Idea of its own Seed upon them, by which they are determin'd to nourish Man only, and no other Animal; as afterwards, when they come

come to every particular Part of the Body, by the Circulation of the Blood, they are determin'd by the seminal Acid residing in that Part, to nourish it rather than any of the rest. And that Aliment, which has once receiv'd the Seal or Impression of the feminal Idea of any Animal in the Stomach, or of any part of the Animal in that same Part; will never receive the Idea of another Animal, nor of another Part of the fame Animal, unless it be suppress'd by a more powerfull Ferment; as when Sheeps Bones, tho' furnish'd with their own proper Ferment and Idea yet, being unable to refist the stronger one of a Dogs stomach, are therein turn'd into fit nourishment for the Dog, and afterwards for his Musculous Fleshit self and other Parts, as well as for his Bones. In like manner Grass has its own Ferment and Idea suppress'd by that of a Cows stomach, which seals it with fuch an Impression, as renders it fit Nourishment for a Cow, but not for any other Animal. But if the same Grass had been taken into the stomach of a Horse, it would have been turn'd into Nourishment fit for a Horse, but unfit for a Cow or any other Animal. Again common Mercury, which is the Nourishment of Metals, is converted into this or the other Metal, according

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according to the diversity of the Acid feminal Sulphur that Coagulates it. Finally all Vegetables also are endowed with a feminal Acid, and therefore their express defluices do, after long Fermentation, tast Acid. And in the Fermentation of Cream of Tartar with Salt of Tartar, the Seed, Idea or Archem, that reside in the Acid of the Tartar, forms certain Bubbles very

much refembling natural Grapes.

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orth, 15 All this will be better understood hereafter, from the Authors particular expication of the nature of the foremention'd Seeds, Ideas and Ferments: But now, to put it past all doubt, that Water is the only Material Principle of all Mixt Bodies, the Author has not only prov'd that all Substance sthat Mixt Bodies can be resolved into by the Chymical Art, are totally reducible into Elementary Water; but likewise he proves particularly, that

Prop. XIV. Water is the only and Catholic Nourishment of all Vegetables, Animals, and Minerals.

A ND 'Tis manifest that every Body consists of the same Matter that nourishes. 1. As for Vegetables, Helmonts Experiment proves this beyond contradiction; namely, he put 200 pound of Earth

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Earth (dry'd in an oven ) into an earthen vessel, moisten'd it with Rain-water, planted it in the trunk of a Willow Tree weighing s pound, and let it alone there for s years time, only watering it, as need requir'd, with Rain-water or distill'd Water. [And to keep the neighbouring Earth from getting in, he imploy'd a plate of Iron tin'd over and perforated with many holes. At the 5 years end he found the Tree had grown fo well, that it weighed 169 pound and three ounces: And yet the Earth, being dry'd again, weigh'd but two ounces less than it had done at first: fo that above 160 pound of Wood, Bark, Root, &c. had grown up out of mere Water, Coagulated by the Seminal Ferment of the Vegetable into the severall Substances newly mention'd. Hence Rain does wonderfully refresh, envigorate and advance the growth of, all forts of Plants, and without that they decay, wither and dye. For Water is indifferent to them all, till it be turn'd by the Ferment of the Vegetable Seed into Leffas, as Helmont calls the Juice that is the immediate Aliment of the Plant. Thus Wolf-bane Aconitum and Lavender, for instance, growing in the fame Soyl, are both nourished by the same Rain-water, which

by the Ferment of the one is Coagulated into a poysonous Herb, and by that of

the other into a wholfome one.

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Secondly, That Animals are nourish'd with Water alone, appears in Fishes; for they live only in the Water, and yet have no food supply'd them from any where else, nor is there any Rudiment of it to be found in their Stomachs, as Helmont ob; ferves. [ And tho' fome Fishes feed upon others, yet these others feed only upon Water, and therefore are materially nothing else but Water. ] As for Terrestrial Animals; some of them, as Horses, Cows, Sheep, &c. feed wholly upon Water and Grass, which the Author has already prov'd to be materially nothing else but Water, and therefore that which grows in well water'd places, prospers best, others, as a Lyon, Wolf, &c. they be not nourish'd by Grass and Water only, but feed upon other Animals, yet still their food is materially nothing else but Water, being that these Animals live only upon Grais and Water, except when they are too young to digest Grass, that they are nourish'd by their Mothers Milk, which also is materially nothing else but Water, since it is generated of the Mothers nutriment. [ The same things are easily appliapplicable to Birds; ] and to Men, which feed only upon Vegetables, Fishes, and the Flesh of Beasts that are nourished on-

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Thirdly, As for Minerals; Mercury is the immediate Aliment of Metals, and some other Minerals, and the nearest Matter of which they are produc'd. Now Mercuty is nothing but Elementary Water, Coagulated by a certain Metalline and Arsenical Sulphur into fuch a Water as does not wet the Hands: and by other various Sulphurs'tis further Coagulated into Antimony and divers Metals. Hence Mines are never found but where there is a great conflux of Water. Gold is gather'd out of the Sands of some Sand abounds no where so much as near the Sea and great Rivers. Stones are nothing elfe but fand compacted together. [ And the illustrious Mr. Boyle has fully prov'd in a most ingenious as well as judicious Discourse about the Origine and virtues of Gems, that many Gems and Medical Stones were once fluid Bodies. But twere too long, here to give an account of the many cogent Arguments he there imploys to prove this Affertion, which very much countenances our Authors Hypothesis. ] The experienc'd Helmont informs us, that it often happens in Mines when the Workmen are breaking the Rocks, that the Wall cleaves, and a little water of a whitish green Colour slows out of the cleft, & presently thickens like liquid Soap; afterwards it growes yellow or white or of a deeper green. This Juice he calls Bur, and affirms it to be the nearest Matter of all Minerals, and to be nothing else but Water Coagulated by a Meneral Ferment, as Lessas is by a Vegetable.

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To make it yet more evident, that Water is the only first Material Principle of Natural Bodies; the Author undertakes to prove that

Prop. XV. All Animals, Vegetables, and Minerals are ultimately resoluble into Elementary Water.

refolv'd into by Distillation, are Phlegm, Volatile Salt, Urinous Spirit, Oyl, and Earth or Caput mortuum, but very little if any Fixt Salt. The Phlegm is nothing else but Elementary Water, except in as far as it partakes of the Volatile Salt and Oyl, of which it always carries up some Particles, nor can it ever be perfectly separated from them. 2. The Volatile Salt of Animals is of the same nature with that of Vegetables, which belong

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ing Colliquated by the force of the Fire with Acid and Earthy Particles; is thereby turn'd into a Fixt Salt. And this fixt Salt being frequently deliquated, and the Phlegm as often abstracted, is at length totally refolv'd into Elementary Water. All this was abundantly prov'd before; as also that 3. The Spirit is nothing else but Volatile Salt dissolv'd in Phlegm. 4. The Oyly and Fat parts of Animals may be united with an Alcalifate Salt into Soap, from which being often abstracted, they turn at length into meer Elementary Water. And this is to be obferv'd of all the Fats of Animals, that by frequent Circulation with Salt of Tartar they are converted into Water. 5. [As for the Fixt Salt of Animal Substances, 'tis the common Opinion that none can be abstraffed from them; perhaps because all their Saline Parts are so Volatile, that ( to speak consonantly to our Authors Hypothesis ) they cannot sustain a Colliquation with the Earthy Parts, especially fince there are very few, if any, manifeltly Acid ones to concur to their Fixation. But that indefatigable Searcher into Nature, Mr. Boyle, informs us, that by an obstinate Calcination of eight ounces and a half of Caput mortuum of Human Blood, he he obtain'd above feven drams of Salt, which, tho it were not truly Lixivial, but rather of the nature of Sea-falt, yet it was Fixt enough to endure a Calcination for two days together, without flying away. However, 'tis probable, that this was nothing else but fome unalter'd part of the Sea-falt that feason'd the Aliments, that the person or persons whose the Blood was fed upon. ] 6. The Earth also may be totally resolv'd into Elementary Water, by being depriv'd of its seminal vertue by means of the Alcahest.

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Hence tis that dead Animals, when they putrify, are refolv'd into an Aqueous Substance. And Helmont has deliver'd a notable Experiment to this purpose, namely, that if you dig up a Frog at full Moon, in the coldest time of Winter. ( atrocissimo byemis borea ) wash it, and tye it to a stick in the Fields, the next morning 'twill be turnd into a white and tranfparent Mucilage, not unlike to liquifid Gum Tragacanth, but retaining the figure of a Frog. Yea he affirms that the Cadaver of a Man or Beast, exposed all night to the Rayes of the Moon, will in the Morning be almost fluid with rottenness, (putrilagine diffluet:) so great power has

has the Moon to reduce dead Bodies into.

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an Aqueous Mucilage.

Secondly, Vegetable Substances Chymically analysid, yield Phlegm, Volatile Salt, Spirit of feveral forts, Oyl, Fixt Salt, and Earth. To the first, second, fourth and fixth may be apply'd what was faid of the Phlegm, Volatile Salt, Oyl, and Earth of Animal Substances. Fixt Salt may be totally refolved into Elementary Water, by reiterated Solutions in the Air, and Abstractions, as above. There are 4. forts of Spirits afforded by Vegetable Substances. I. Vinous inflamable Spirits, which were formerly prov'd to be nothing but Oyls dissolv'd in Phlegm by Fermentation: as also that 2. Volatile Saline Spirits, as Spirit of Soot, Spirit of Beans (that have been kept in a dry place for some Months) &c. are nothing but Volatile Salts dissolv'd into Phlegm. And that 3. Acid Spirits, as Spirit of Vinegar, Spirit of Beans newly gather'd, &c. Are nothing but Acid Salts in a fluid state and united with Phlegm: and being pour'd upon Fixt Salts, they are together with them ultimately refoluble into Elementary Water. 4. Adiaphorous Spirits of Box, Guaiacum &c. Which the judicious Mr. Boyle, who was the the first Observer of them, suspects to be generated of the finer parts of the Oyl of the Wood, reducd to an extraordinary smallness, and by that means exquisitely mix'd with the Plegm the juice of Grapes affords: all these 4 forts of Spirits, as Mr. Boyle has observed in his excellent Discourse concerning the Producibleness of

the Chymical Principles. USHA 1, 310 1

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Thirdly, As for Minerals; We must rely upon the testimony of Van Helmont, whom Mr. Boyle concludes to be a veracious Author, (except in that extravagant Treatise of the Magnetical Cure of Wounds, from the fuccess he has had in trying some of his Experiments, that might feem not the most likely to succeed: [ and I think we may justly lay great weight upon the judgement of so experience and judicious a person as Mr. Boyle, concerning the fincerity of any Chymical Author. Helmont then in feveral places informs us, that all Stones, Gems, Marcasites, Metals &c. may be transmuted into an aquiponderant Salt, and this into Insipid Water. And as for Metals, it seems indeed that common Mercury is their nearest Matter, into which they may be refolv'd by the separation of their Coagulating Salts: and the famous Langelot has made an Experiment of this in the Regulus of Antimony. Now if the other Metals also may be refolv'd into Mercury by depriving them of their Sulphurs, and the Mercury it self be reducible into Water, (by robbing it of the Sulphurs yet remaining in it,) as Mr. Boyle somewhere affirms, it may in great part, and as several other Authors of good credit attest; then it can no more be doubted, that all Minerals are re-

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ducible into Water.

[It will not be unseasonable in this place to mention a few Experiments, deliver'd in Mr. Boyles Septical Chymist, that do very much countenance the three last Propositions. That excellent Author then informs us, that about the middle of May he caus'd his Gardiner, to dig out some good Earth, dry it well in an Oven, weigh it, put it in a very shallow Earthen Pot, and fet in it a Seed of Squash (a fort of Indian Pompion that grows apace) which he water'd only with Rain or fpring Water. And the the hastning Winter hinder'd it from attaining any thing near its wonted magnitude, yet being taken up about the middle of October, the Pompion together with the Stalk and Leaves weighed three pound wanting a quarter. And yet the Earth, being very well dry'd in an Oven, was found to have lost little or nothing of its first m of

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first weight. He try'd the like Experiment with two Cucumbers, which being taken out of the Earth wherein they had grown, weighed ( together with the Roots and Branches) fourteen pound and fix ounces; and yet the Earth had lost but a pound and a half of its first weight. which the Gardiner judg'd to have been in great part waited in the ordering. But granting that some of the Earth, or rather of the dissoluble Salt harbour'd in it, was wasted in the nourishment of the Plant; yet 'tis plain, that the main Body of it confisted of trasmuted Water. This Experiment may be try'd with the Seeds of any Plant that is bulky and grows hastily. Likewise A top of Spearmint of an inch long, being put into a vial full of Springwater with its lower part immers'd, did in a few days shoot forth numerous Roots into the Water, (as if it had been Earth,) and display it self upwards into many Leaves, with a pretty thick stalk. fame Experiment has also succeeded with Marjoram (tho' more flowly) Balm, and Peniroyal, to name no more. One of these Vegetables cherish'd only by Spring-water, and that never renew'd, afforded by distillation (besides Phlegm) an Empyreumatical Spirit, an adust Oyl, and a Caput mortuum

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mortuum, that appearing to be a Coal, confifted no doubt of Salt and Earth. And if Helmont had distill'd the foremention'd Tree, no doubt it would have afforded him the like distinct Substances as another of the fame kind. But a more confiderable Instance ( to prove that all forts of Bodies are nothing else but Water fubdu'd by Seeds ) than any yet mention'd, is: afforded us by Mr. de Rochas, who tells us, that he took simple Water, that he well knew to be mix'd with no other thing but the Spirit of Life, and having with a heat Artificial, Continual, and Proportionate, prepar'd it by the Graduations of Coagulation, Congelation, and Fixation, which he had spoken of before, untill it was turn'd into Earth; this Earth produc'd Animals that mov'd of themselves, Vegetables and Minerals. The Animals he found, by a Chymical Anatomy he made of them, to be compos'd of much Sulphur, little Mercury, and less Salt; and the Minerals (which were folid and heavy, and began to grow, by converting into their own Nature one part of the Earth · thereunto dispos'd) of much Salt, little Sulphur, and less Mercury. And tho the judicious Mr. Boyle has some suspitions of this strange Relation, yet as to the Gearth.

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neration of Animals and Plants, he thinks it not incredible, fince commen Water ( which is indeed often impregnated with variety of Seminal Principles and Rudiments ) long kept will putrify and stink, and then perhaps too produce Moss and little Worms, or other Infects, according to the Nature of the Seeds that were lurking in it. And tho? the Distillation of Eels yielded him some Oyl, Spirit, Volatile Salt, and Caput mortuum, yet were all these so disproportionate to the Phlegm (in which at first they boyl'd as in a pot of Water) that they feem'd to have been nothing but Coagulated Phlegm; which does likewise strangely abound in Vipers, as hot in their operation and as vivacious as they are.

And seven ounces and a half of Human Blood yielded near six ounces of Phlegm, before any of the Spirits began to arise, and require the Receiver to be chang'd. Corrosive Acid Spirits, tho they seem to be nothing but Fluid Salts, yet you'l find them to abound with Water, if either you entangle, and so fix their Saline part by making them corrode some idoneous Body, or mortify it with a contrary Salt. Thus in making of Balsamus Samech with distill'd

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distill'd Vinegar instead of Spirit of Wine, the Salt of Tartar from which it is distill d, will, by mortifying and retaining the Acid Salt, turn near twenty times its weight of the Vinegar into worthless Phlegm, before it be satisfied. And in making the true Balfamus Samech (which is nothing but Salt of Tartar dulcifid, by distilling from it Spirit of Wine till it be glutted with the Vinous Sulphur,) as foon as the Spirit of Wine is depriv'd of its Sulphur by the Salt of Tartar, the rest (which is incomparably the greater part) remigrates into Phlegm: fo that if Helmonts process be true (which was confirmed to Mr. Boyle by a fober and skilfull Spagyrift, who did indeed prepare the Spirit and Salt by a way that is neither short nor easie, but added nothing to them ) Spirit of Wine seems to be Materially nothing but Water under a Sulphureous disguise, tho' being so igneous that it will totally flame away, 'tis of all Liquors the most likely to be free from Water. But Helmont's grand Argument for his Hypothesis, is taken from the operation of the Alcahest; which, he fays, does adequately resolve Plants, Animals, and Minerals into one Liquor or more, according to their feveral internal Disparaties

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ties of Parts, ( without Caput mortuum or the destruction of their seminal vertues; ) and that the Alcahest being abstracted from these Liquors in the same weight and vertue wherewith it disfolv'd them, they may by frequent Cohobations from Chalk or some other fit substance. be totally depriv'd of their feminal Endowments, and by that means reduc'd to Infipid Water. Here Mr. Boyle judiciously observes, that it may be doubted whether this Water, because insipid, must be Elementary; since the candid P. Laurembergius affirms that he saw an infipid Menstruum, that was a powerfull Dissolvent: and the Water which may be drawn from Quickfilver without addition, tho' almost tastless, will manifest a very differing nature from simple Water, if you digest in it appropriated Minerals. However the foremention'd Experiments concerning the growth of Vegetables, do sufficiently prove that Salt, Spirit, Earth, and Oyl (which are four of the pretended Chymical Principles) may be produc'd out of simple Water. But to return to our Author.

Having provid, That Water is the only Material Principle of Bodies usually call d Mixt, by three Arguments. 1. Because

none of the other pretended Chymical Principles have a right to that Title; some of them not being naturally pre-existent in the Bodies from which they are obtain'd; and all of them being reducible to Elementary Water. 2. Because Water is the only Nourishment of all Animals, Plants, and Minerals; and by consequence the only Matter of which they consist. Because all Animals, Plants, and Minerals are by a true Analysis ultimately reducible to simple insipid Water. Having evinc'd this, I say, by these three newly mention'd Arguments; and Fire being the only Sublunary Body (besides Air, of which heareafter ) that these Arguments, as hitherto prosecuted, can with any colour of reason be pretended not to reach; and being likewise by many enumerated amongst the Principles of Natural Bodies; the next Proposition shall be, that

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Prop. XVI. Fire is nothing but an Acid Volatile Sulphur very swiftly mov'd.

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LOR there is a certain Sulphur in every Inflamable Body, which takes fire as foon as 'tis put into a rapid motion, whatfoever the Caufe be that excites it to that motion. This appears in the striking of fire by the collision of two Flints; in the firing of the Axel-tree of a Mill or Coach, that fometimes happens upon a long continued and vehement attrition; and in many other fuch obvious Instances. Oyl of Vitriol contains a great many Acid Sulphureous Particles, proceeding as well from the Embryonated Acid, that Corroded the Iron or Copper Oar in the Bowels of the Earth, as from the Iron or Copper it self: these Particles, being excited to motion by the affusion of Oyl of Tartar (or even genuine Spirit of Tartar) produce a notable heat and Effervescency. The Sulphur of Quick-lime ( whether it be innate, or adventitious from the fire) conceives a vehement Heat, as soon as 'tis excited to motion, by the Alcaline Lixivial Particles fet at liberty by the affusion of Water. Finally (to add no more)

more) Butter of Antimony consists chiefly of the Sulphureous Particles of the Antimony, and the Salino-Acid ones of the Mercury Sublimate: the latter being wash d off with Water, the former do more manifestly appear, (namely in Mercurius vita, which causes Vomiting without any danger of Corroding the Bowels:) and both of them being vehemently mov'd by the affusion of Spirit of Nitre, there is an intense heat produced.

So that the Formal nature of Fire or, Heat confifts in Motion. Now that the Sulphureous Particles of which Fire is materially confituted, are of an Acid nature, will abundantly appear from the ensuing Confiderations.

I. The particles of the Flame of common Sulphur, being receiv'd and Condens'd in a Glass Bell, do compose a very pier-

cing Acid Liquor.

II. There are not any Bodies more akin to Fire, than the totally inflamable Spirits of fermented Vegetables. And yet all the Principal Effects of these Fermented Spirits, depend upon a Volatile Acid. For 'Tis upon the account of its Acid Salt, that Spirit of Wine is Coagulated in Spirit of Urine or Salarmoniac, or in any other Volatile

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Volatile Alcali, as also, that it loses its strength by distillation from Salt of Tartar, which imbibes and retains the Acid, and receives an increase of weight thereby. And Generous Wine, that is turgent with this Spirit, being drunk moderately, sends a Volatile Acid to the Brain. that makes a fubtile effervescence with the (Alcaline) Animal Spirits, and thereby produces Cheerfulness and a Vigorous Promptitude to Action; (as on the contrary, the Sadness of Melancholy perfons proceeds from the Fixation of the Animal Spirits by a more Fixt Acid.) But upon excessive Drinking, that Volatile Acid ascends too copiously to the Brain, conquers and fixes the Animal Spirits, and so stupesies the Organs of Sense and Motion: yea fometimes it may Suppress the Vital Acid (or Innate Heat) of the Blood, and at length totally Coagulate it; especially if the Wine be endow'd with a strong Acid, as the French, and chiefly the Hungarian Wines are wont to be. And indeed, that the Inebriating vertue of Wine (and all other strong Drinks) is entirely owing to a Volatile Acid, may be prov'd by many Arguments. 1. Hence 'tis, that Volatile Alcaline Salts do prevent Drunkenness, especially Spirit of Salt-Armoniack.

moniack, if some drops of it be now and then mingled with the Drink. 2. Bitter Almonds and other Oleous things, do likewife prevent Drunkenness, by weakning and suppressing the vaporous Acid of the Wine, so that it cannot reach the Brain. 3. The same Acid inflames Drunkards Faces, and adorns them with purulent Pimples, like To many Gems. For the whitish colour'd Matter, contain'd in these Pimples, proceeds only from the Volatile Acid of the Wine that infects the ferment of the Muscles of the Face, coagulates and precipitates the Blood that comes thither for Nutrition, and so changes its Purple Colour into a whitish one. For proof of this Assertion, 'tis to be noted, that the Purple Colour of the Blood proceeds from the resolution of the Sulphurous AcidParts by the ferment of the Heart, which fets them at liberty, fo as that they may mix per minima, and make a subtile effervescence with the Alcaline Spirits: as when Spirit of Salt-Armoniack or of Harts-horn, or any other that is Alcalical, is digested with Spirit of Wine, they produce together a very red Tincture, because the Acid Sulphur of the Wine, being by Digestion intimately mix'd, and making a Subtile effervesence with the subtil Alcaly,

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is at length so resolv'd as to manifest it self by tinging the whole Liquor: after the fame manner, in the Tincture of the Salt of Tartar, the Spirit of Wine is ting'd by the Volatilis'd Alcaly of Tartar: and common Sulphur boyl'd in the Lixivium of any Fixt Salt, is thereby exalted to a Red Colour; but because the Alcaline Salt is fo ty'd to the Terrestrial Particles, that it cannot penetrate the Sulphur per minima, therefore the Colour is obscure and dark. Now, if you pour another Acid Liquor upon these Sanguine Tinctures, immediately they become of a Milkwhite Colour. Just fo it happens, when the Blood is extravafated, and putrefi'd in any Part of the Body, the Acidity, that arises from this Putrefaction, Precipitates the Sulphur that ting'd the Blood, and thereby turns it into white stinking Pus; even as common Sulphur, when it is Precipitated out of any Lixivium by the affusion of Vinegar, strikes the Nose with an ungratefull Odour, tho it was utterly inodorous before: fo that Pus is nothing but Blood, whose vital Alcaline Balfamical Spirits are suppres'd by an hostile Acid, and the tinging Sulphureous Particles Precipitated in Wounds & Abscesses, while the Pus is a making, the motion of E 2 the

the Acid Particles do often produce a Symptomical Feaver, an Inflammation in the Part affected, Convulsive Motions in the Brain, and Pains in the Nervous Parts: but these Symptoms abate as foon as the Pus is made, and the motion of the Particles ceas'd. 4. Amongst the External Medicins, that are wont to be apply 'd to the foremention'd Pimples in the Face, the Preparations of Saturn are the chief; because they imbibe the Acid of the Wine, or other Inebriating Liquor, that inflames the Face. For Saturn readily receives all forts of Acids or Sulphurs, even those of Metals, as is well known to the Refiners. Thus the unripe Sulphurs of Metals, Coagulated in Saturn, do compose Litharge. Vinegar, Coagulated in Saturn, produces Sugar of Lead. And all Acids in general, Coagulated in Saturn, Mars, or any other Body what soever, are wont to be dulcifi'd thereby. For all Sugars are nothing but Acid Salts Coagulated in other Particles: whence 'tis, that they are resolv'd by Distillation into a very Ardent and powerfully Inebriating Spirit; and are extream fit to promote or even begin Fermentations: and therefore 'tis, that the Syrups of the shops have a manifestly Acid Tast; and Sugar is very hurtful to Scorbutical persons, because

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because upon the account of its Acidity it excites divers vitious Effervescencies, produces Tumors of the Bowels &c. And vitiates the Vital Ferment of the Stomach.

III. That the Particles of Fire are of an Acid Nature, may evidently appear from all other Inflameable Subflances, especially those that are Oyly and Fat, as well as from common Sulphur and Spirit

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For in the first place, 'tis certain, that Oleous and Fat Bodies are really endow'd with an Acid; as appears from the following Reasons. 1. Chirurgions observe, that Oyls, and fat Substances, are very noxious to the Bones, (especially the Skull, which is a Porous Bone ) and particularly, that they are apt to make them Carious; which must happen upon the account of their Corroding Acid. And for the same reason, they render Ulcers fordid, by increasing the Corroding Acid. 2. What else is that Greenness, that adheres to Lamps, but the Acid of the Oyl-Olive Coagulated in the Particles of the Metal, that it has Corroded? whence comes the Blew Colour of Oyl of Camomil distili'd in Copper Vessels, but from some Particles of the Veins Corroded by

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the Acidity of the Oyle? 3. The Heartburn ( Ardor Ventriculi) is often occasion'd by Fat things, (especially if you drink after them, because the Acid Salts are thereby dissolv'd and put into a swifter motion) as well as by austere and sourish Wines: and the Remedy, in both Cases, is, to use things fitted to Precipitate the Acid. 4. Oleous and Fat things are hurtful in Erysipelatous Distempers, ( which proceed from the Coagulation of the Blood by an Acid, ) because they increase the Peccant Acidity, whence the Putrefaction is increas'd, the Bones are corroded, and the Natural Heat of the Part is at last totally suppress'd, and mortify'd. (Yet the Author denyes not, but these Effects do also partly depend upon the Obstruction of the Pores of the Part, by the forefaid Fat substances, so that the Effluvia, wont to transpire through the Pores, being detain'd in the Body, and inordinately, mov'd, do increase the Feaver. ) 5. 'Tis likewise upon the account of their Acidity, that Oyls are hurtful to all Inflammations, without such a Preparation as consumes or corrects their Acid. Thus Lin-feed Oyle mingl'd with an equal weight of Spirit of Wine, and boyl'd ( with continual stirring ) till the Spirit reby

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be consum'd, is us'd safely and successfully, both inwardly and outwardly, in Pleurisies, Peripneumonies, Inflammations of the Liver &c. because the Coagulating Acid is readily imbib'd by this Oyl, that has been depriv'd of its own Acid by the Spirit of Wine, which, being a much more Volatile Oleous Body than the Oyle of Lin-feed, evaporates before it, and carryes its Acid along with it; even as the same Spirit, being mingl'd with Aqua fortis and distill'd in a Cucurbit, ascends before it, and carrys a great part of its Acidity along with it, insomuch that the remaining Aqua forcis becomes a very safe internal Medicine, tho' before, the Imell of it only would cause an Atrophia in the whole Body. The same Oyl of Lin-seed is also Corrected, by frequently extinguishing red hot Steel in it, till it appear by the ceasing of the hissing & smoke, that the Acid Particles are either Evaporated in smoke and spent by Deflagration, or Coagulated in the Mars. And if after this it be Distill'd from Quick-lime, that if any Acidity yet remains, it may be therein Coagulated, the Oyl of Lin-feed becomes an excellent Remedy for Inflammations, Burns and the like: as Oyl-Olive also does, by Distillation from Quick-lime. And

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And this last nam'd Oyl, being imbib'd in old Tyles or Bricks ( which are depriv'd of all moisture by their having been long expos'd to the heat of the Sun) heated red hot, and quench'd in it, and then distilled in a Retort, is thereby robbed of all its Acidity, and acquires a fingular Vertue in the Palsey, Gout, Cramp &c. And all Oyls are wholfomer boyl'd than crude, because a great part of the Acid is exhal'd in the boyling. 6. Helmont teaches that Distill'd Chymical Oyls, which are otherwise very hot, may by an artificial Circulation for three Months time with an Alcali Salt be turn'd into a very temperate Volatile Salt: namely because the hot Acid of the Oyl is Saturated by the Alcali, and by that means reduc'd temperate. Nor can there be any other Reason given, why the Alcaly should have this effect upon the Oyl, but that the Acid of the Oyl corrodes the Alcaly and is Coagulated in it.

Now in the next place, That the Heat and Inflammability of Oyly Substances depend upon the Acid, that the Experiments, newly deliver'd, prove to be contain'd in them, may be evinc'd from those same Experiments; most of which do not only prove, that Oleous and Fat Bodies are endow'd

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dow'd with an Acid, but likewise, that the effects usually ascribed to the hot Quality of these Bodies, do indeed depend upon this Acid; and that whatfoever mitigates or destroys this Acid, does at the same time weaken or destroy their Heating Power. And 2: that this may also be truly apply'd to their Inflammability, and that the Acid Particles contain'd in Oyly and Fat Substances are really the Matter of which the Flame of these Substances (when they are burning) consists, does plainly appear by the Abstraction of Oyls from Spirit of Wine, Quick-lime, or Bricks; for, being by this means deprived of their Acid, they become less Inflammable than the crude Oyles were. And Candles made of Sheeps Tallow, burn sooner away than those made of any other Tallow, because there is greater store of Acid Particles in it; as appears by the Griping of the Guts, which cannot happen without a Corroding Acid, (for all the Medicines, effectual against this Distemper testify that to be the Cause of it ) and which is very often occasion'd by eating Fat Mutton, especially if the Acid Salts be dissolv'd by drinking after it, in like manner as when Salt Butter is sweetned by melting it, and pouring it into water,

and thereby dissolving the Salt. Likewise recent Fat, or Oyl burns sooner away, than that which has been long kept, and thereby lost much of its Volatile Acid. N.B. Since Tallow, as well as every other Body, is materially nothing else but water Coagulated by a feminal Acid, and fince 'tis only the Acid Particles that feed the Flame; it follows, that when they are confum'd, he remainder, being robb'd of, the Coagulating, Acid must return into Elementary Water, and therefore 'tis insensibly dissipated like a Vapour: even as the water of Spirit of Wine kindled

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vanishes into a Vapour.

IV. The Particles of Fire being fix'd or Coagulated in any Body what soever, do plainly manifest themselves to be Acid, as appears from the following Instances. 1. Fire Coagulated in Mars, turns it into a Crocus, that differs nothing from Rust, (which proceeds always from an Acid) and is every way like to that Crocus which is prepar'd with Acids, and endow'd with the same Medicinal Vertues. V. Tachen. Hipp. Chym. cap. 28. 2. Fire Coagulated in Saturn is separated by means of a Fixt Algaly, or even of Venetian Borax; for Minium ( which receiv'd its red Colour from the Sulphur of the Coals, even as the Sulphur r a-

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phur of Antimony Coagulated in Mercury, turns it [into Cinnabar] of an exceeding high red, is by the help of these Salts reduced to crude Lead. N.B. According to Tachenius's Computation, 100 pound of Lead retains in Calcination ten pound of Fire. 3. All the Remedies for Burns are such as are capable to imbibe, saturate, or suppress the Igneous Acid; for instance, Sugar of Saturn, Cerus, Litharge, Oyls deprived of their Acidity, Lixiviums, &c. And unwashen Threed mitigates Erysipelatous Instances, because of the Alcaly of the Spittle.

V. And lastly, The Acidity of the Particles of Fire appears from its efficacy in Chirurgery, and particularly in exftirpating ill condition'd Ulcers. For the cause of Olcers being a Corrofive Acid, they may be cur'd by three forts of external Medicines. 1. Those that Saturate this Acid, as Spirit of Salt- Armoniac, Quick-time Water, Oyl of Tartar per deliquium, and the like. 2. Those that imbibe and assume this Acid, as all the Preparations of Saturn. The Author has known Ulcers in the Legs cur'd, meerly by applying thin Plates of Lead to them; because the Acid, corroding the Musculous Flesh, was coagulated in the Lead. 3. Those that by a more po-

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tent Acidity suppress this weak one; as Verdegreese, which consists of the Acid Salts of Vinegar Coagulated in Particles of Venus; now these Salts are much more powerfull than in common Vinegar, because they are concentrated and separated from strong Phlegm, and thereby enabled to suppress the weaker putredinous Acid of the Ulcers; which Aqua fortis, Spirit of Salt, and other Acid Spirits also do. But nothing performs this so effectually, as Astual Cauteries, because there is no Acid so power-

ful as that of Fire.

N. B. I. The Acid Effluvia, that are continually passing away from Inflammable Bodies while they are burning, do compose Flame, so long as they continue numerous enough within a certain Sphere, and in a very swift motion, but having pass'd the limits of this Sphere, they begin to move more flowly, and are by degrees dispers'd. So that the same Acid Effluvia, which being in a rapid motion, produce tormenting Pains and Convulfive Motions by corroding the Nervous Parts; when they are in a moderate Motion, do produce in our Body a temperate and gratefull heat, by inciting the Nervous Capillaments to gentle Spains.

N.B. 2. Tho' Actual Fire be so far

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from being one of the Material Principles of Mixt Bodies, that it cannot exist in them without destroying them; yet there are certain Acid Particles in all mixt Bodies, differing but in Rest, or in Degrees of Motion from Actual Fire, in which the Seeds or Ideas reside, that are the Formal Principles of those Bodies. But these Acid Particles do themselves return into Elementary Water, when they are devested of those Seeds. Which Seeds or Ideas, so often heretosore mention'd, twill now be seasonable to explain.

Having abundantly prov'd, that Simple Water is the only Matter of which all Mixt Bodies consist, 'tis plain that they all agree in one and the same Material Principle; so that their difference one from another proceeds not from any diversity in the Matter of which they consist, or in the proportion of the Elements that may be suppos'd to concur to their Composition

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Prop. XVII. The diversity, that is among Natural Bodies, is wholly owing to the different Seminal Ideas, that regulate the Operation of the Plastick Spirit, which Coagulates Water into various Substances, differing in Figure, Solidity, Bigness, Order and Connection of Parts, and other Modifications, according as its Motions are guided by these Ideas.

LOR when God at first Created out of nothing the Terraqueous Globe, and furnish'd it with numerous Bodies of several Species or kinds; he was pleas'd, because the Individuals were Corruptible, to endow them by vertue of his Omnipotent Word (Be fruitful and multiply,) with a Power of producing out of Pre-existent Matter, new Individuals like themselves, and of their own Species; that so, when the first Individuals were dissolv'd, the Species might nevertheless be preserved in these new Individuals generated by the first; & so on, as long as the world endures. This Generative Power is seated in the seeds; [which are very obvious in Animals and Vegetables, but more doubtful in Minerals, at least in severall forts of them.

As for Animals, and particularly Man;

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the Feminine seed is a limpid Liquor. contain'd in the little Eggs, that are found in the Testicles. This Seminal Liquor contains in it felf an exact Idea of an entire Human Body (of the femal fexe, ) confifting of as many particular distinct Ideas, as there are different Parts in a Human Body, which all together concur to make up one entire Idea of an entire Woman: fo if it were possible for us to contemplate this Idea with our Bodily Eyes, as well as we can do with our Intellectual, we might discern in it sensible signatures of all the Parts of the Body, alltogether making up a lively representation, and as 'twere exact Model, of an entire Woman. The Idea of every particular Part in this Seed, is a Particle of the Idea that relides in that fame part of the Womans Body that generates this Seed. For every Part of a Womans (Mans, or any other Animals) Body, whether Similar or Organical, has its own Idea residing in it, in which Idea is imprinted upon, or (which istall one) communicates a Particle of it felf unto the Blood, that Circulates through the Part; and the Blood carryes all these Ideas to the Testicles, where they are gather'd together, dispos'd into the same Order that the Parts, they come from, have in the Womans

Womans Body, and so united into one entire Idea, which is inclos'd within the Tunicles of the Egg, that being defended from Injuries thereby, the particular Parts of it may be able to retain their due fituation. and may not be lyable to be confounded one with another or misplac'd. Idea is endow'd in the Testicles with a particle of that moving Vital Spirit, which is the Principle of all Vital Actions, and the only Mover of all Seeds, which, without this, are Barren and Unfruitful, because they cannot unfold themselves. But yet this Plastick Spiritin the Feminine Seed is too weak for to accomplish the evolution of the Ideas, without it be frengthen'd, Actuated, and Fecundated by that more powerfull Spirit which the Masculine Seed is impregnated with. All that has been said of the Feminine Seed, is applicable also to this, faving, that it contains Ideas of all the Parts of a Human Body of the Male Sex only, not of the Female; and that these Ideas are confounded one with another, because the Seed not being inclos'd in Tunicles in the form of Eggs, but contain'd in the Testicles in a liquid form, they fluctuate and cannot retain any certain Order. Hence it is, that as the Feminine

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Feminine Seed alone can never be fruitful, till its weaker Spirit be corroborated by Conjunction with the Masculine: fo neither can the Masculine Seed alone ever produce a Fætus, till its confus'd Ideas be reduc'd into due Order by conjunction with the Feminine, each Idea taking its own proper place, by applying it felf to the correspondent Ideas of the Feminine Seed. In short, the Masculine Seed cannot reduce the confus'd Ideas into Order, but being fet in Order by the Feminine, it can explicate or unfold them. which the Feminine cannot. Wherefore the Masculine Seed must be injected into the Womb, whence it emits a Seminal and Vital Spirituous Exhalation through the Tubi Fallopiani into the Testes or Ovarium, where one (or more) of the Eggs, being impregnated with this Exhalation, and focundated thereby, is thrust out of its place, and falls into the extremity of the Tubus Fallopianus, which conveys it to the Womb. Fortho' the two Seminal Spirits be now united into one, yet even this is not sufficient for the Evolution of the Ideas; till it be excited to motion by the Heat of the Womb; and then it begins the Evolution of the Ideas by Coagulating the approximated Aliment

ment into a substance agreeable to the particular Ideas, and applying it to them: by which means the Ideas, that were utterly infensible before, do quickly acquire a visible bulk: infomuch that Kerkringius tells us of a Fætus, but four days old, wherein the distinction of the Parts was plainly discernible. This Apposition of Aliments to, and gradual Evolution of the Ideas, begins at the first Conception, and continues after the Child has left the Womb, till the Body have attain'd its full stature; (that is, to a perfect Evolution of the Ideas, for when the Ideas are not capable of any further Evolution, the Growth of the Body must cease.) So that Ganeration is really nothing else, but the first Nutrition; or the Apposition of Aliment to and Evolution of the Ideas while they are yet infenfible: and on the other side, Nutrition is nothing but a communed Generation. For 'tis the same Plastick Spirit, guided by the same Ideas, that Coagulates and Applyes the Aliment to every Part, both in and out of the Womb. And the immediate Aliment of all the Parts in both states is the same, namely Blood, but with this Difference, that the Embryo is nourish'd with the Mothers Blood, communicated to it by the Umbilical Vein from

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from the Placenta Uterina: whereas, after the Child is born, it takes in various Aliments by the Mouth, and makes Blood of them it self for its own Nourishment. This Blood is already determin'd to nourish the Human (and no other Animals) Body, by the Impression that the Idea of the Stomachal Ferment has feal'd the Aliments, it is made of, with; but is indifferent to all the Parts of the Human Body, till it come to be determin'd to the Nourishment of particular Parts by being stamp'd (as it were ) with the Seal of the particular Ideas residing in them. For every Organ hides in its Ventricle an Idea of its own Body, that regulates the Apposition of the Aliment to that Part, (and is the same that regulated the first Formation of it. ) And the Native Heat, or vital Spirit of every different Part, Coagulates the Blood into a differing Substance, and applyes it in a differing manner, according to the diversity of that Idea, which guides the Motions of this Coagulating Spirit. These Ideas were concreated with the Parts of the first Individuals. And after what has been faid, 'twill not be difficult to conceive, how they were folded up (as it were) and united into one entire Idea in the Seed of these

first Individuals: how the second were generated by the gradual unfolding again of the same Ideas, & apposition of Aliment to them: in a word, how by the convolutions and Evolutions, (so to speak) of those Ideas, the Propagation of Mankind has been continued to this day. (And the same is to be said of all other Animals, as

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This is as brief and clear an Account, as I could give of the Authors Notion of the Generation of Animals: which tho' it may feem already more prolix than is agreeable to the Design of this Treatise, yet, because the Theory of Generation is so difficult, and because I have not elsewhere met with so intelligible an Account of the Seeds and Ideas that Helmont fo often speaks of; I thought it would not be foreign to my Design, if I insist a little longer upon a Theory, that will fo much conduce to facilitate the Reading of an Author, that many are deterr'd from, by the Obscurity of his Notions, and that has deliver'd fo many and fo confiderable Chymical Experiments; for the obscure hints he gives of some of the Principal, will be much better understood by one that is acquainted with His Notions, than by one that is not, cateris paribus. Wherefore I shall

shall proceed, without any farther Apology, to deduce, from the Hypothesis, already deliver'd, an explication of some of the chief Phanomena of Generation; continuing to insist upon one single Instance, taken from the chief Species of Animals, Man: for the same things, that are here deliver'd concerning Man, may, with alittle alteration, be easily apply'd to other Animals.

The Sexe of the Fætus is determin'd by the prevalency of the Ideas of the Fathers, or of those of the Mothers Seed. If there be a parity of both, the Fætus will par-

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A Mole happens, when an Egg falls out of the Ovarium into the Womb, merely by the irritation of Lust, without congress with a Man: for the Tunicles of this Egg fwell and are extended in the Womb; but the moving Spirit of the Masculine Seed is wanting, to unfold the Ideas of the Egg and apply Aliment to them: for the Ideas, tho' they give the due Figure to every Part, yet they cannot unfold themfelves; and the Feminine Spirit in the Egg is not vigorous enough to do it; tho' it have really some activity, whereby it concurs with the Masculine in the formation of a true Fætus, and makes itself alone some unperfect evolution of the Ideas in a

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Mole, which has been observ'd sometimes by Kerkringius and others, to contain the Parts of a Human Body sensibly, tho' imperfectly, delineated. 'Tis because of this strength and vigour of the Spirit of Mens Seed, that they are said to be of a hotter temperament than Women; and that Eunuchs turn Esseminate in their voice, manners, and disposition.

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Abortion happens upon the lest manifest Acidity of the Aliment of the Fætus, for this Coagulates and suffocates the Spirit, that by its occult and milder Acidity should Coagulate the Aliment, and apply it to the Nourishment of the Fætus. Hence a four Scorbutick disposition of the Blood makes Women subject to miscarry; and the use of red Coral, Mother of Pearl, and the like is good to prevent it.

The Plurality of Fætus's happens when more Eggs than one are fæcundated by the Mans Seed, and fall out of the Ovarium into the Womb. For the Ideas of the Mans Seed, being to be reduc'd into order by application to those of the Womans, every particular Idea may be divided, and apply it felf to the correspondent Idea of several Eggs. This is manifest in the Seed of a Cock, which if the Hen have but once received, it suffices often-

oftentimes to make her Eggs fruitful for a whole year thereafter. So that every particular Idva of his Seed, must have been divided into as many Particles, as there were Eggs facundated by it. Marcus Marci, De Ideis operatricibus, ascribes the plurality of Facus's to the Plurality of Hearts in the Seed, howsoever this be occasion'd; for the Heart being the Center of Evolution, as many Hearts as there are, so many Centers of Evolution, and by consequence so many Facus's.

The monstrous Plurality of Parts in one Focus happens, when the Ideas of the Masculine Seed are not exactly apply'd to the correspondent Ideas of the Feminine Seed; but decline to the right or left hand; so that, being separately unfolded, they make

up distinct Parts.

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The want of a particular Part (as Arms, Legs &c.) happens, when the Idea of that Part is not unfolded for want of Aliment; or is extinguished by some impure Acid Particles of the Aliment, or by the force of the Mothers Imagination of some person presented to her, that has (by an Accident perhaps,) lost that Part.

A Pygme or Dwarf-Stature happens, when the Evolution of the Ideas is hinder'd, either by the impurity or manifest F 4 Acidity

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Acidity of the Aliment apply'd to them, fome time after the Fætus has left the Womb; or by the force of an Idea imprinted in the Mothers Imagination, that fo mingles it felf and becomes one with the Idea, that forms the Fætus, as to determine it, not only in respect of Figure but of Stature; so that the Fætus tive Idea, being straitly ty'd with the Imaginative, is compell'd thereby to stop before a perfect Evolution. If this Idea take root in one Subject, it may be propagated to Posterity, till it be extinguish'd by a supervening Idea of greater Force.

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On the contrary, a Gigantine Stature proceeds from the Evolution of the Formative Idea beyond its due bounds; which Marcus Marci ascribes to two Causes, namely, either the Refraction of the Ideal Rayes by falling into a dissimilar Medium, or the Mothers strong Imagination of some huge Statue. And indeed there are many obvious Instances, to prove, that a strong Imaginative Idea of the Mothers, impress'd upon the Seed, (or even upon the Embryo, after the Evolution is begun) may have powerful Effects in the Formation of the Fætus. For hence it is, that we can often distinguish Men of several Nations by their Aspect: because the Women of every Nation

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Nation form in their Imagination fo strong an Idea, from the constant fight of their owne Country-men, as, by uniting it felf to the Formative Idea, determines it to fashion the Fatus like them, in some Propertyes of the Countenance, that most, if not all, of them, agree in : Jacobs Rods also are a fignal Instance to this purpose. And there are many Relations of White Women, that by reason of a strong Imaginative Idea, occasioned by the frequent, or unexpected and affrighting fight of Blackamores, have brought forth black Children. This Imaginative Idea continues, till it be extinguish'd by the accession of another more powerfull Idea. The Author tells us of a Woman with Child, affrighted at the sudden coming of a Blackamore; who being presently wash'd all over, by the prudent advice of a By-stander, did so strongly imagine the washing off of the Blacknefs hereby, that the Idea of Blackness, formerly conceiv'd, and already imprinted upon the Fætus, was by this means extinguish'd; for she brought forth a white Child, but spotted between the Fingers and Toes, and in a few other Parts that the washers hand had miss'd. Finally, to add no more, tis a very usual Observation, that if a Woman with Child conceive

a strong Idea of any Thing, whether by a longing desire after it, or being affrighted at the fight of it &c. the Child feldom fails to have a Mark in some part of its Body, representing that thing both in Colour and Figure; whether it be a Cherry, Mouse, or any other such like thing: and if the Thing, that surprises the Mother, fall upon or hit against a particular Part, the Idea of it will be impress'd upon that same Part of the Fætus. An Eye-witness related to me, that a pregnant Woman, that had been affrighted with a Cat suddenly thrown upon her lap, brought forth a Child with two Marks, one above each Knee; which Marks, when the Knees were brought together (into the fame posture that the Mothers were in, when the Cat affrighted her ) did exactly represent an entire Cat, with the Head above the one Knee, and the Tail above the other, in the very fame posture that the Cat fell in. But, tho' it plainly appears from these and many more such instances, that the Mothers Imagination has a powerfull influence upon the Fætus; yet to give a clear and, intelligible Explication of the Manner how it produces fuch Effects, is a matter of no finall difficulty; and our Author gives but little account

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count of it. However I shall offer some Considerations, that may somewhat lessen this Difficulty, tho' I shall not pretend to give a clear and fatisfactory Solution of it. First of all then, I consider, that, since the Formation of the Fætus is wholly regulated by the Seminal Ideas, 'tis easy enough to conceive, that an Imaginative Idea, impress'd upon the Seed, may have a considerable Influence in the Formation of the Færus. For Instance, the Idea of a Blackamore ( fimply as fuch, regarding only the Colour of his skin, and not the figure, proportion, and other Qualities of the Parts of his Body; or at least, not being to strong in regard of them, but that other different, and more prevalent Ideas of these Qualities, may render this ineffectual, as to them: this Idea (I fay,) impress'd upon the Seed', may determine the Formative Spirit to form the Fætus with a black skin; fince it has been formerly prov'd, that all the Modifications (and confequently the Colour) of every Part, depend intirely upon the Ideas refiding in the Seed. In the next place I consider, that, since 'tis highly probable, that the Animal Spirits, which come from the Brain through certain little Nerves to the Testes, do there mingle themselves

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with the spirituous part of the Blood, brought thither by the Arteries, and concur with it to make up the Matter whereof the Seed confifts: and fince the Idea of a Blackamore (to keep to the former Instance) is convey'd to the Brain and imprinted there by the Animal Spirits. which receive it from the Image or Idea painted in the bottom of the Eye, upon the Tunica Retina or (as others think) the Chorocides, by the Rayes of Light reflected from the Blackamores Body; it may be easily enough conceiv'd, that the Animal Spirits may also convey the same Idea from the Brain to the Testes, and there impress it upon the Seed. For if the Animal Spirits of the Optick Nerves transmit this Idea from the Eyes to the Brain, and there imprint it; why may not the Animal Spirits of the Par vagum transmit the same Idea from the Brain (through certain little Branches that reach, ) to the Testes, and there communicate it to the Seed. And fince the Rayes of Light, that come from the Object, may be Reflected from a Specular Body to the Eye, without, losing thereby that Figuration, Motion, or whatever other Modification it be, that qualifyes them to paint an exact Idea of the Object, they receiv'd it from, upon the Retina

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Retina or Chorocides: why may not the Animal Spirits, that receive the very same Modification from the Tunicle of the Eve, be Reflected from the Brain to the Testes. and there impress the same Idea upon the Seed. Nor can it be faid, that the Seed is not a Subject capable of such Ideas, since ( as was noted before ) the Animal Spirits. are Part of the Matter whereof it confilts, fo that by taking them into its own fubstance, it must receive the Ideas they bring along with them. And 'tis most certain, that many Impressions, made in particular Parts of the Body, and transmitted to the Brain, do not stop there, but are Reflected back to the same, or to other Parts, where they often produce very notable Effects; & that barely by the strength of the Impression, without any concurrence of the Wills Determination, year many times in direct opposition to it. And tho' the Substance of the Brain seems very remote from being Specular; yet fince that Quality depends upon fuch a Modification of the furface of any Opacous Body, as qualifies it to Reflect the Rayes of Light in the same order they fell in, without at all confounding them, or altering the Modifications they receiv'd from the Object; 'tis plain that the

the Brain, if it be at all capable of Reflecting the Impressions that come from visible Objects, (as certainly it is) must, as well as Specular Bodies, tho' perhaps upon very different accounts, be qualify'd to Reslect them without confounding or altering them; for if the Brain should confound or alter them, there could be no true distinct Ideas of the Objects, they come from, form'd

in it.

All these Considerations may be also apply'd, to lessen our wonder at the powerful Influence of the Mothers Imagination upon the Foetus in the Womb already form'd. For so long as the Fætus is in the Womb, it may very justly be consider'd as a Part of the Mothers Body; fince her Blood Circulates through and nourishes it, as well as the other Parts of Her Body. And being 'tis very probable, that the Animal Spirits, convey'd by the Nerves to every Part of the Mothers Body, do there mingle with the Blood brought thither by the Arteries, and concur with it to the Nutrition of the Part: I may very reasonably suppose, that the Animal Spirits, that come to the Womb, may there mingle with the Arterial Blood, and be trasmitted together withit by the Umbilical Vein into the Body of the Fatin for

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its Nourishment. And if there be a strong Impression of any Idea in the Brain, the Animal Spirits may (as was formerly explain'd with relation to the Testes) convey it to the Womb, and there impress it upon the Body of the Fætus; which, being so soft and tender, may upon that account be more susceptible of any such Impression, than the other Parts of the Mothers Body; especially since Her frequent and folicitous Thoughts of the Womb, and the Fætus therein contain'd, may determine the Animal Spirits to flow more copiously thither than to other Parts, and keep those Pores of the Brain that lead thither more open: fo that the Reflection of any Impression, made upon the Brain, may have a freer course that, than any other way. And tho' the Impression made upon the Fatus be but weak at first, yet it may be afterwards sufficiently confirmed by often reiterated Imaginations. Finally, tho' it be very little at first, yet it may increase daily as the Fætus grows: which may be both illustrated and confirm'd by Figures lightly cut in the Rind of a Gourd, which grow bigger and bigger as the Gourd increases.

And now I fee not any confiderable Difficulty remaining in this Subject, after I shall have added this one Confideration; namely, That, because the Formative Idea, residing in every Part of the Fætus, is a Particle of the Idea that resides in the same Part of the Mothers Body; an Imaginative Idea, produc'd in her Brain, by a fudden Impression made upon any Part of her Body, may, when it is communicated to the Fætus, be more apt to unite it felf with the Formative Idea, belonging to that same Part of the Fætus, than with any other; and upon this account, that Part may more eafily, than any other, receive the Impression. For the Idea of the Object comes to the Mothers Brain, accompany'd with the Idea of the Part, that the Impression is made upon, and the Imagination connests them together as it were into one Compound Idea, and transmits them to the Fætus; where the latter easily unites it self with the Formative Idea homogeneous to it, and the former impresses itself upon the Part, that this Idea resides in.

If it be objected, that after all that has been said, we are still in the dark about

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the main Point, for want of a clear and distinct Notion of the Ideas so often mention'd. I answer, that many things have been already, and fome more yet remain to be, deliver'd, tending to clear the Nature of those Ideas, all which laid together, and attentively consider'd, may go a great way in affifting judicious Readers, to form as clear Notions about them, as can well be expected in fo abstruse a Subject, as the Generation of Animals. And 'tis no less cefficult, if not much more, to give an Intelligible and fatisfactory explication, of the Nature of Imaginative Ideas, representing sessible Objects in the Brain (which no man questions the reality of, ) than of those Formative Ideas, that the Notions, here propos'dabout Generation, are built upon. And he that denyes the later, because he cannot be distinct enough in his Conceptions of them, may upon the same ground deny the former, yea and even disbelieve his own Eyes, when he sees the Ideas of many various Objects transmitted through a small hole (fill'd with a Convex Glass) into a dark Room, and there delineated to the life, without the least confusion, upon a piece of White Paper, placed opposite to the hole, at a convenient distance G

distance. And fuch a Person I cannot better answer, than by recommending to his serious Perusal, A Discourse of things above Reason, lately Published; where the acute and judicious Author very convincingly proves, that, 'tis highly reasonable to believe many things, that our Reason cannot comprehend; many that we cannot form any clear and diffinct Notions of; and many that we cannot reconcile to other unquestionable Truths. For the Ideas, we have been speaking of, may very justly claim a place in the fecond of the three, newly mention'd, Ranks of Priviledg'd Things, which that Author Styles Inexplicable. 'Tis true, that profound and fubtil Philosopher, Des Cartes, has attempted, in his Book de Homine, to give a Mechanical Account of the Ideas, that are imprinted in the Brain by insensible Objects. But he founds his Notions upon an Hypothesis, concerning the Structure of the Brain, and the Motion of the Spirits in it, which tho'it be most ingeniously devis'd, yet 'tis sofar from being countenanc'd by Anatomical Observations, that it seems utterly inconsistent with the best and most accurate, that have been made upon that Part. But 'tis more than time to conclude this Digreffion, and proceed to the rest of our Authors Obser-

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Observations about the Seminal Ideas of

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The Propagation of Hereditary Distempers (fuch as the Epileplie, Gout, Stone, Consumption) from Parents to their Children, depends upon this: That the feminal Idea which forms the Lungs (for instance) of the Fætus, is a Particle of that Idea which resided in the Parents Lungs: Which is to be understood also of the Reins, Joynts, Brain, and all the other Parts of the Body. Hence many Children are born with Moles, or Spots, in the very fame Parts of their Body where their Parents had them, and of the same shape; infomuch, that whole Families have taken their Names from the Things that the Moles, common to these Families, were observ'd to resemble, as the Cicerones, Pisones, Lentuli, &c. For there are certain subtil Corpuscles, that go out of every (even the smallest) Part of the Parents Body, and mingle themselves with the SpirituousPart of the Blood that Circulates through it. Which Effluvia, being modifi'd, and as it were figur'd, after a peculiar manner by the Part they come from, impress this Modification upon the fore-mention'd Spirit; which Spirit, being afterwards united in the Seed with the

the Ideas of all the other Parts, (that is, the Spirits come from every Part with a peculiar Modification impress'd upon them by it ) and excited to Motion, and extricated from the groffer Parts of the Seed by the heat of the Womb, begins to form. of its own Substance, a Body like unto that Part, from which it receiv'd the Modifications impress'd upon it. And thus the prima stamina of the Fætus are form'd; which are nourish'd at first by the grosser Part of the Seed, and afterwards, partly by the Mothers Blood, and partly also, perhaps, by the Liquor contain'd in the Amnos or inner Membrane of the Fætus. From this Process of Generation, 'tis easte' to understand, how that Disposition of some particular Part of the Parents Body, which renders Him or Her obnoxious to any particular Distemper, may be communicated to the same Part of the Fætus, and render it obnoxious to the same Distemper. Only the nature of the Impression which is made upon the Spirit that forms the Parts of the Fætus, and which qualifies it to form them like the Parts of the Parents Body which it came from; I fay, the particular nature of this Modification remains in the dark still. Nor do I know how to illustrate it better, than by comparing

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comparing it to that which is little less obscure than it self; namely, the Modisication, which the Rayes of Light receive by being Reflected from various Objects, and by which they are qualifi'd, to produce, in a darkned Room, lively and distinct Reprefentations of each of those Objects, both as to their Figure and the Colour of their furface; and 'tis from the furface only, that the Rayes received this Modification. whereas the fore-mention'd Effluvia come from all the innermost Recesses of every Part, and therefore from the correspondent Part of the Fætus like unto it, not only in Figure and Colour, but in the whole Nature and inward Textur of

That the Ideas of all the Parts do really exist in the Blood, appears from the following Arguments. I. They have sometimes visibly appear'd in the Blood, receiv'd into a Cucurbit immediately as it flows out of the Vein, (whilst it is warm and turgid with Spirits) for some Medicinal Preparation: See Borell. Observ.

2. Some, that have drunk the Blood of any Animal, or of another Man, have been observ'd to partake of the Nature and Disposition of that Man or Animal. Commodus his disposition was owing to his Mother,

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ther, who, presently after his Conception, drank the Blood of a cruel Gladiator that she was desperately in love with. A certain Maid, having drank some Cats-Blood, as a Remedy for the Epilepsie, did imitate Cats in her voice, motion and Actions, when the Fit was coming upon her; watching filently at little Moufe-holes. See Becker. Microcosm. Therefore (to note that by the way ) the Transfusion of Blood feems not a fafe way of curing Diseases. 3. The Spittle of a Mad Dog makes other Dogs, Men, Horses, or any other Animal, wounded by his Teeth, turn mad also, and imitate his Actions and Gesticulations, such as Barking, Grinning, Fearfulness of Water, &c. Now Spittle is an immediate production of the Blood that circulates through the Salwary Glandules, & therefore must have receiv'd from thence the Ideas, that it infects the Spirits of the bitten Animal with. Also other Venemous enraged Animals, as the Tarantula, &c. communicate such Ideas by the little Wounds that their Teeth make in the Part they bite, as transform the Spirits of the Party bitten to a ridiculous imitation of their Gesticulations.

Though every particular Part of the Fatus be form'd, as has been faid, by the Evolution,

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Evolution of its own Idea, convey'd, by the Circulation of the Blood, from the Correspondent Part of the Parents Body, unto the Testes, where the Seed is made; yet maimed Parents may have perfect Children; namely, if both Father and Mother be not mutilated (at least not of the same Parts; ) or if they have had perfect Seed in store, before they were dismembred; or if the defect of the Architectionic Spirit, that should have come to the Seed from the Part that is deficient, be suppli'd by the strength of the Parents Imagination; who by feeing daily other Infants, Boys, Girls, Men, Women, all perfect, without the defect of any Part, may conceive so firm an Idea of a perfect Fætus, as will (by the Sympathy, between the Imagination and the Seed, formerly explain'd) produce the very same Modification in the Seed, that an Idea, convey'd by the Blood from the deficient Part, (if it had not been wanting) would have done. For the Mothers Imagination may not only add to the Fætus a Spot representing the Thing imagin'd in Figure and Colour, but even the very Thing it self in its whole Nature. How many Instances are there of Pregnant Women, that have conceiv'd fo strong an Idea of the Horns of some Beast that has terrifi'd G 4

terrifi'd them, that the Impression, thereby made upon the Fætus, has produc'd ( not a Spot only representing it, but ) a real fubstantial Horn, though, perhaps, this Cause of the Phanomenon be not always observed. And hence it is, that if the Parents be maimed from their Birth, their Children are often mutilated of the fame Part, because they cannot easily conceive a firm Idea of the entireness of that Part, which they never felt entire in themselves: But if they were dismembred long after, they can easily form a strong Idea of the Part that they have felt entire, and known the use of, in themselves, and so supply the defect of that Idea in the Seed. 'Tis also probable, that the Mothers Imagination is the principal Cause, why the Childs Face sometimes refembles the Fathers, fometimes the Mothers, and fometimes fome other Person, according to the Idea that is prevalent in the Mothers Brain, while she is with Child.

That the Mother (as well as the Father) is furnish'd with true Seed, endow'd with the Ideas of the Parts of her own Body (as well as the Fathers is with the Ideas of his) and consequently, that she does contribute part of the Plastick vertue that forms the Fatus, as well as afford the

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Matter of which it is form'd and nourish'd in the Womb, appears from feveral Parts of the foregoing Discourse, as well as from the three following Confiderations. 1. The Ideas of the Masculine Seed can only be taken from the Parts of the Mans Body, and therefore can never form the Organs peculiar to a Woman. 2. The vitious Conformation of any Part of the Mothers Body, as well as of the Fathers, is often propagated to the Fætus. 3. When a Male and Female of differing Species copulate, the Fatus is of a mixt kind, refembling the one in some of its Parts, and the other in others. We have (besides the instance of Mules) too many instances of this in the Monstrous Fætus's produc'd by the detestable Venery of some Men. that copulate with Female Brutes. The flowing of the Menstruous Blood to a young Womans Womb, is a sign of Maturity, because it signifies, that, besides the Seminal Idea of her own Sex (which she was really furnish'd with before ) there is now also Aliment provided for the Evolution of that Idea, when soever it comes to be Feecundated by the Masculine Seed.

Death happens, when the Vital Spirit (or Calidum innatum) that is the chief Mover in the Evolution of the Ideas, and in all

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the Animal Functions, is suppress'd or extinguish'd by any Cause whatsoever. (This may be better understood from what was formerly deliver'd of Abortion, which is nothing else but the Death of the Fætus.) But the Ideas do still remain in the Cadaver, though they are become Barren for want of the Moving Spirit; which shall be restor'd again at the Resurrection, and no new Evolution thereby made, but the entire Idea, as it was already unfolded at the time of Death, resuscitated or animated anew. And some of the Spectres, that are feen in Church-yards, may be nothing else but the Ideas, remaining in the Human Cadavers, elevated by means of a certain Central Heat, which would be seen in the day time also, if the Light of the Sun did not keep them from appearing. Serpents, cut to pieces and putrefi'd, breed new Serpents by the influence of the Sun, which restores to the quiescent Ideas that moving Spirit, which they had lost by Death. Frogs also bruis'd, in the Winter, and resolv'd into Mud, do, upon the same account, revive in the Summer. Ducks, putrefi'd, are reported to breed Serpents, and it has been confirm'd to the Author, by a credible eye-witness: whence it evidently appears, that the seminal Ideas of the Serpents rex.

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pents Flesh (which they use to feed often upon ) have not been totally destroy'd, even by fo many Digestions, but have continu'd entire under the dominion of the Ducks feminal Ideas. Swallows, when the cold Winter comes, bury themselves under the Water, where they continue without any fign of the least Motion or life, 'till the returning Sun inspire them with new vital Spirit, and thereby raise them to life again. All these Instances do strongly argue the possibility of the Humane Re-Surrection: Which (as also the Authors conjectures about Spectres ) is likewise much confirm'd by the Resuscitation of Vegetables, hereafter mention'd.

Naturalists observe, that, in some Persons, the Passion is so great in time of Coition, that, for the present, it quite bereaveth them of the use of Reason. And therefore it is, (which should have been noted before) that the Parents Imagination, at that time, produces more powerful Effects in the Seed, than the same Imagination, at any other time, could have done. For when the Animal Spirits flow in such abundance into the Organs of Generation, any Idea, that is very strong in the Imagination, must of necessity be carry'd down together with them and insect the Seed.

But I have already infifted too long upon this Subject: And therefore I shall add no more, but pass on to the Generation of Ve-

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Every Species of Vegetables has its own particular Seed. The visible Seed is but the Receptable, that contains, and secures from External Injuries, the true Seed or Idea of the Plant, which (fays our Author) all found Philosophers affirm to be but the 2800 parts of its own Body; intimating this determinate Proportion, that in all Generations the true Seed is very remote from any sensible bulk. The Seminal Idea of every Plant (as was formerly faid of Animals) confifts of as many particular distinct Ideas, as there are different Parts in the Vegetable, all together representing an exact Model of the entire Plant. Evolution of this Idea is perform'd in this manner. When the Body of the Seed, or external Capsula of the Seminal Ideas, begins to be foften'd by the moisture of the Earth, so that the Ideas may take up a larger space, the heat of the Sun excites the innate fire of the Seed, which is Congeneal to it; (for all fruitful Seeds are endow'd with a Particle of that universal Spirit of Life, which is the Principle of all Vital Actions, Fœcundates all Seeds,

and is the only Mover in all Generations:) and which being, put in motion, begins, by the Coagulative vertue 'tis endow'd with upon the account of its Acidity, to Coagulate the Water that is at hand, into a Substance agreeable to the nature of the Ideas, and fill up the little spaces of the Ideas with it: Which are by this means gradually explicated, 'till they have attain'd the utmost Evolution that they are capable of. This Evolution, of the Ideas of a Vegetable seed, may be clearly represented to the Eye by Artificial Vegetation, which is perform'd in the following man-

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Take the ripe Seed of any Plant, gather'd in fairWeather, bruise it in a Glass Mortar, and keep it in a Glass Hermetically seal'd, of a shape and bigness answerable to that of the Plant, 'till you observe a convenient Evening, when Dew is like to fall; then take out your Seed, and expose it all night upon a Plate of Glass, that it may be wet with Dew; but be fure to feal it up again before Sun-rise, with a solution of the Salt of Dew, in its own distill'd Liquour pour'd upon it to the heighth of three fingers breadth. Expose this feal'd Glass to the Rayes of the Sun and Moon in fair Weather, and keep it in a warm Fire room in rainy

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rainy Weather. After some days the Seed will appear like a Mucilage, and the fupernatant Dew will be of a Green Colour faturate according to the nature of the feed, and cover'd over with a skin of divers Colours. When these signs are compleat, if you heat the Glass, you shall see a perfect lively Idea of the Plant rise up within it, which will disappear again when the Glass is removed from the Heat. This odd Phanomenon depends upon a Particle of the Universal Spirit contain'd in the Dem, which excites the innate Spirit of the Seed to an occult Fermentation, whereby the Idea is freed from its external earthy Receptacle, fo that it may be elevated by the application of external Heat, leaving the heavy terrestrial Particles behind. But the Author does not give credit to the Experiment, that some pretend to, of elevating this Idea from the Ashes of a Plant; because the Calcination drives away that Spirit, which is the immediate Receptacle of the Idea of the Plant. The foremention'd Salt of Dew is made by Filtring and Distilling the Dew 'till it leave no more Faces, then Calcining the Faces, and Extracting the Salt from them, which is to be dissolv'd in the Distill'd Dew, and so pour'd on upon the Seed, as above. In per-

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In the last place, Minerals also are endow'd with Seminal Particles. For though they be not made up of fo many dissimular Parts, and of distinct Organs, as Vegetables, and especially Animals are; and confequently, though we cannot suppose any Ideas in them consisting of Integral Organical Parts: Yet they have a certain Seminal Ferment, which, in Metals particularly, is evident enough; for 'tis this Ferment that converts Mercury into a Metalline Sub-Stance. Therefore, Iron Mines, that have been almost quite exhausted, are after fome years found as rich in the Oar as they were at first. And the same thing is obferv'd in Tin, (and likewise in Nitre.) And fuch a Seminal Power there is in common Gold, though this Metal be unfit to impregnate other Metals therewith, and consequently improper for the Grand Phitofophical work of Transmutation; because its Sulphur, being once Coagulated, loses all Power of Motion for the future, and therefore is unfruitful and dead. But'twas this fame Seminal Sulphur, that, when the Gold was produc'd, did Coagulate it felf with Mercury, and thereby convert it into Gold. And there appears not any folid Reason against the possibility of the Transmutation to much fought after; fince, though

though Seeds cannot be converted into other Seeds, yet those, that are endow'd with a weaker Mover, may be overcome by, and brought under the Dominion, of such Seeds as are furnished with a stronger.

And now having establish'd the Material and Formal Principles of Natural Bodies, the Efficient only remains to be consider'd.

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Prop. XVIII. The chief Mover (under God) of all Natural Bodies, that actuates and focundates all Animal, Vegetable and Mineral Seeds; that Coagulates Elementary Water into all forts of Bodies, according to the various Ideas of those Seeds; that applies the same Water to those Ideas, and in a word, the chief Efficient in all the Phanomena of Nature, is a certain subtil Spirit of an Igneous nature, diffus'd through the whole visible World, but chiefly treasur'd up at the Center thereof in the Sun.

W.B. [1. By Spirit here, is not meant an Immaterial Substance, but a Body confisting of very Minute and very Active Particles, peculiarly fitted for Motion, and endow'd with a great measure of it. 2. By the visible World, I understand here, that part of the Corporcial

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real Universe which contains the Earth with the other six Planets, and makes up one great Vortex, whereof the Sun is the Center. As for the rest of the Universe, it is altogether unknown to us, only, as that most ingenious conjecture of the incomparable Des Cartes concerning it, is very likely to be true; namely, that every one of the fixt Stars, we see, is the Center and Sun, as'twere, of a distinct Vortex: So 'tis no less likely, that each of them has the same relation to its own Vortex, and the fame Influence upon the Planets, or whatever Bodies they are which it contains, that the Sun has to our Vortex, and upon the Bodies comprehended there in particularly the Terraqueous Globe. And though this Part of our Authors Hypothelis concerning the Anima Mundi or Universal Spirit, may be applicable in the fense newly explain'd, to the whole Universe of Bodies, yet his other Principles of Water and Seeds are not so comprehensive; and whatever he fays of them, must be limited to the Bodies contain'd in this little Point of the Universe, that the Almighty Creator has given to Mankind for an Habitation. And the truth is, we have but little certain knowledg of the other Parts of the World, and that little we have is very **fuper** 

superficial. ] 3. This Universal Spirit is actually Igneous in its Fountain, the Sun; and after it is incorporated in Terrestrial Bodies, even the coldest of them, it differs but in the flower Motion of its Particles from actual Fire, and therefore, when-ever they are put into a rapid motion, it turns into actual Fire again. And those Particles of Combustible Bodies, that, being in a vehement Agitation, do chiefly constitute our Culinary Fire, were once Particles of this Universal Spirit, and came Originally from the Sun. 4. This is the Spirit that mov'd upon the Water at the beginning of the Creation. For when God created the Matter of which he intended to form this Terraqueous Globe, namely, a great Mass of simple Elementary Water, he endow'd it with all forts of Seeds, and made use of this Spirit to Coagulate a great part of the foresaid Mass, according to the Signatures of those Seeds, into Mineral, Vegetable and Animal Bodies of all kinds. \ And the Word in the Original, which our Tranflators render Mov'd, seems to agree very well with this Hypothesis: For it properly belongs to Birds litting upon and fluttering over their Eggs and young ones, to excite, quicken and fœcundate the Seed contain'd in the Eggs, and so bring forth the voung

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young ones; and to cherish them when they are brought forth: fo that, in this place, the Word may be very reasonably supposed to imply, that the Vital Spirit, which God had Created, did, as 'twere, fit upon, and move it felf in the Waters. to actuate the Seeds they contain'd, and by this means Hatch'd, as 'twere, and brought forth the after-mention'd Bodies. ] 5. Thu' this Spirit, by Coagulating the Elementary Water into feveral Bodies, was it felf Coagulated and Incorporated together with it, and tho' it has been propagated to all forts of Bodies that have been produc'd, by Generation, ever fince the Terraqueous Globe was first Created; fo that every fruitful Seed has a Particle of this quickning Spirit connate with it: Yet this Particle is not sufficient to accomplish the Evolution of the seminal Ideas, and actuate the Body in all the Functions that belong to it, unless it be maintain'd, corroborated, and multiplid by constant fresh supplies, from that Inexhaustible Treasure of this Vital Fire, which is plac'd in the Sun, and thence diffus'd, with the Rayes of that glorious Body, to all Parts of the visible World, and particularly to the Terraqueous Globe, where it maintains and actuates the fore mention'd

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Native Spirit of all Animals, Vegetables and Minerals. : 61 The Vital Substance, that flows continually from the Sun, is equally capable of all Forms, and unites it felf indifferently with all Seeds. But when itis once united, it loses its indifferency, and is specifi'd according to the determinate nature of every particular Seed that -it incorporates with. Hence the Sulphurs of Vegetables are quite different from those of Anierals, and both from the Sulphurs of Minerals; nor can they be transmuted into one another by humane Art: So streightly does the Universal Spirit unite it self with marticular Seeds. The reason of this fo close an union, is, because the Native pre-existent in every Seed, is of the same Spirit Nature and Original with this Univer sal Spirit. 21 what

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As for the Proof of the Proposition hitherto explained, the Universal Spirit, afferted in it, is manifest, 1. From the absolute necessity of constant Respiration to Men, and most other Animals; for hence it is evident, that there is a certain Vital Substance in the Air, that they cannot live a Minute without fresh supplies of, now that the Air is but the Vehicle of this Vital Substance, slowing continually from the Sun, and the Medium, through which it is convey'd

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conveyed to fublunary Bodies, shall be provid hereafter. So that it must be the Universal Spirit, cloath'd with Air, that is constantly received into the Lungs by Inspiration, and thence transmitted to the Heart; which ( being the chief Fountain of the Animal Life, that constantly diffuses a Vital Spirit through the Arteries, together with the Blood, to all Parts of the Body, and thereby maintains and cherishes the Native Heat and Vital Spirit residing in each of them ) must have constant supplies from the Universal Spirit, to Corroborate, Maintain, and Multiply its own Particular Spirit. For the Univerfal Spirit, that flows from the Sun to all Parts of the Macrocofm, is of the same Nature with this Particular Spirit, that flows from the Heart to all Parts of the Microcosm, and is therefore very fit to nourish and support it with constant new supplies. 2. The same Universal Spirit is no less evident from what has been deliver'd under the former Proposition, concerning the Generation of Animals. To which I shall only add, that Nature has folicitously provided to secure the Seed from External Air, because, if it were exposed but a moment to the Air, the Universal Spirit, that dwells there, would instantly suck up (so to speak) the H 3 Congeneal

Congeneal Spirit that foecundates the Seed, as not being yet incorporated. Wherefore the Seed, of Oviparous Animals, is carefully that up from the Contact. of the External Air within the Eog. And in Viviparous Animals, presently after the Injection of the Masculine Seed into the Womb, and the Union thereof with the Feminine, 7 the Orifice of that Part is exactly clos'd, and the two united Spirits do presently fall to Work, and begin the Evolution of the seminal Ideas, and the Apposition of Aliment thereunto. But this Work could never be accomplish'd, nay, nor even begun, unless the seminal Spirit were excited, cherish'd, corroborated, and supported by the Heat of the Womb, [ and by constant supplies of the Mothers Vital Spirit, convey'd, with the Arterial Blood, from her Heart to the Placenta Uterina, and thence transmitted, through the Umbilical Vein, into the Vena Cava, and so into the Heart of the Fæeus, which is the Centre of Evolution, and the chief Spring of all the Animal Actions, both in and out of the Womb: But no looner is the Fatus separated from the Mother, and thereby deprived of the supplies that the Vital Spirits, residing in the Heart, receiv'd from her in the Womb, than it begins

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to draw supplies for maintaining of the same Vital Substance, from the Universal Spirit lodg'd in the Air, as was said before. 3. 'Tis the Vital Spirit residing in every particular Part of the Human, or any other Animals Body, maintain'd by the Influence of the Universal Spirit convey'd with the Air, by Respiration, into the Lungs, and from thence communicated, by means of the Circulation of the Blood, first to the Heart, and, from that, to the whole Body; 7 'tis this Spirit, I fay, that Coagulates the Fluid Blood into the folid substance of that Part, and is the true Efficient of all the Vital Functions belonging to it. [ Those Animals that are destitute of Lungs, are nevertheless endow'd with Organs of Resparation of an equiv. lent use. For that excellent Anatomist, Malpigius, has happily discover'd, that those blackish Points, which we observe in Insects, all along the length of their Body, on both sides, are really the Orifices of so many Tracheas or Wind Pipes, which convey the Air into the Stomach, Spinal Marrow, and all the other Bowels, as well as the Heart, so that the Air has immediate access to feed the Vital Spirit that resides in each of them, because there is no Circulation of the Alimentary Juice in these Ani-4

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mals; or if there be it is too flow to convey fufficient supplyes of the Universal Spirit from any one Part to all the rest, as it doth from the Heart and Lungs in perfect Animals. And the constant ingress and egress of the Air by these little Holes, is so necessary to the life of Infects, that if you immerge their whole Body into Oyl, or but anoint these little spots with it, they presently dye; whereas if you anoint only the Intervals with Oyl, without touching these little Holes, they receive no harm. And tho' Fishes have no Lungs nor Air Pipes, because they live in the Water; yet instead thereof they have Gill, which are Dilated and Contracted by a perpetual Reciprocation, to give ingrefs and egress to the Water, as the Lungs of other Animals are to Inspire and Exspire the Air. Nor can Fishes live without Water, any more than Land-Animals can do without Air. Whence 'tis highly probable, that the former receive constant supplyes of some vital substance from the Water, as well as the later do from the Air: especially if we farther consider, that the Vital Liquor Circulates through the Gils of the one by the Ramifications of their Arteria Bronchialis, as well as it do's through the Lungs of the other by those of the Arteria

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teria Pulmonaris. Wherefore, if in Land-Animals the said Vital Liquor divide it self into little Rivulets in its passage through the Lungs, that every part thereof may at each Circulation receive fresh supples of Vital Spirit from the Air, that is diffus'd through the whole substance of those Respiratory Organs, by the numerous Ramifications of the Wind-pipe; if this be io, I say, (as we formerly prov'd it to be) we may very reasonably suppose, that in Fishes the same Vital Liquor Circulates in like manner through the Gils, that it may receive constant fresh supplies of a vital substance from the Water, that washes the Gils perpetually. N.B. The Gils of Crusted, Fish, as Lobsters, Oc. and of Shell-fish, as Oysters, &c. are spongious, and not only receive the Water into all their innermost parts (where it communicates with the numerous Vessels, that diffuse the Vital Liquor through the whole substance of the Gils ) but give it a Passage also into all the Internal Cavities of the Body, where it is laid up as in Bottles, to fupply the foresaid Fishes with Vital Spirit, when the Ebbing of the Sea leaves them in face: whereas the Gils of sanguineous Fishes that live constantly in the Water, are not spongious, and the Water washes on-

ly their outward furfaces without penetrating any farther. But instead of enlarging any more upon this point, I shall refer the curious Reader to Dr. Willis's Book of the soul of Brutes, Chap. 3. where he will find it very fully and accurately handled. 7 4. The Existence of an Universal Spirit is evident from what has been faid concerning the Growth of Vegetables. For 'tis a Particle of this Spirit in the feed, excited, strengthn'd and maintain'd by the Suns Vital Influence, that Explicates the Seminal Idea, and Coagulates the Water into solid substances, as Wood, Bark, &c. which could never be produc'd out of simple Water without this Coagulating Spirit. 5. The same Argument may with equal, if not greater, force be applied to Minerals, and especially to Metals, which, tho' they be the folidest substances yet known, are nevertheless made of Mercury, which of all Liquors is the most fluid.

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In the next place, To evince that the Sun is the chief Fountain of this Universal Spirit, I need only put the Reader in mind of what was formerly observed concerning vegetable seeds; namely, that they would be perpetually barren, if their Native Spirit were not assumed by that vital substance

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stance which is every where diffus'd with the Rayes of the Sun. But to confirm this a little farther, 'tis evident beyond contradiction, that the Growth of Vegetables depends upon the Influences of the Sun, since the different Seasons of the Solar Year have so constant and so powerful Effects upon them. For in Winter the Influence of the Sun is very weak, because of the Obliquity of his Rayes, and the mortness of the dayes: and therefore Seeds lye dormant in the Earth without any motion: Herbs fade and wither; or dye totally: Trees are deprived of their Leaves and lively Verdure, shoot forth no Twigs, produce no Blossoms, bear no Fruit, and in a word cease from all Vital Actions. Yea many Animals themselves loose much of their Vigour, and some of them ( such as Flyes, Frogs, Swallows, &c.) Ive dead, as it were, all the Winter long, in Chinks of Walls, or in Cavities of the Earth, or under Water, without any motion, Sense, or the least appearance of Life: But when the Sun comes to be more vertical, and the Dayes grow longer, every thing capable of Life is quickn'd or reviv'd; and the whole Face of the Earth, that look'd dead and lifeless before, appears fresh, verdant, lively, and quite new, infomuch that

that 'tis aftonishing to behold so vast an alteration: the Vital Spirit remaining in the Roots of fuch Herbs, as did not quite dye in the preceeding Winter, being Reviv'd, Excited to Motion and Corroborated, falls to work afresh, and produces new Stalks, Leaves, Flowers, Seed Fruit, &c. the Vital Spirit that had in a great measure retir'd from the Branches of Irees into their Roots and Body, explicates it self anew, restores their fresh and lively Verdure, and adorns them with new Leaves, Twigs, Buds, Blossoms, Fruit, Go. Finally the Vital Spirit of the forementioned Animals, that had Concentred it felf in the middle of their Body. actuates the Members anew which it had before deserted, and restores to them Sense, Motion, and the Exercise of all their Vital Functions. 5 and a series and a

Lastly, The Universal Spirit appears to be of an Igneous Naure, 1. Because it slows from the Sun, which is an actual Fire. Yea the Solar Rayes themselves, which distuse this Vital Substance through the Visible World, being Collected by a Burning Glass into a Center, produce all the Effects of our Actual Culinary Fire. [2. The Vital Spirit of Animals is fed by the Universal Spirit, as has been evident-

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ly prov'd, and by consequence is of the fame Nature with it. Now this Vital Spirit, in Hot Sanquineous Animals, has all the Essential Properties of an Actual Flame: For it constantly diffuses a sensible Heat through all the Members of the Body: it is maintain'd by constant fresh supplies of sulphureous Fuel from the Aliments, that are taken into the Stomach and thence conveyed to the Blood, where this subtil Flame invisibly burns; and of an Aerial Pabulum from the Air, that is taken into the Lungs by Inspiration, and therecommunicated to the fame Liquor: it constantly emits Futiginous Effluvia, both through the Wind-Pipe also through all the Pores of the Skin, which are like fo many Chimneys appointed to ventilate this vital Fire: It is kindled first in the Seminal Liquor, either by another vital Fire, as in viviparous Animals; or by the Intestine Motion of the Sulphureous Parts, excited and cherished by a continu'd External Warmth, as in Oviparous Animals: but so long as the Facus is included in the Womb or Egg, it burns very faintly, and never breaks out into an actual Flame till the Air have free nccess to it by Respiration: finally it dyes as foon as it is depriv'd of Sulphureous Fuel, of Aerial Pabulum, or of Ventilation. Now these

these Properties seem to be peculiar to Flame: and particularly there is nothing we know of in the World besides Life and Fire, whose Motion is instantly suppressed by withdrawing the Air. See Willis de Accention. Sanguinis.

Prop. 19. The Universal Spirit, that Coagulates Elementary Water into Solid Substances of the Animal Vegetable and Mineral Kingdoms, consists of Acid Particles.

For I. IT is of an Igneous nature; and Fire has been prov'd to confift of Acid Particles put into a rapid Motion. 2. All Chimists agree that the Concretion of Bodies depends upon the Saline Principle. Now Alcaline Salts are apt rather to Dissolve Bodies, than either to Coagulate or be Coagulated: Whereas we have a multitude of Instances of Coagulation and Fixation perform'd by Acid Salts; which tho' they Corrode ( and fo Dissolve ) many Bodies, yet their Property is to Concoagulate with the Bodies they have Corroded. [ Thus Quicksylver is Fixed and Coagulated by the Acid Particles of common or Antimonial Sulphur, into Cinnabar; by those of Salt and Vitriol into Sublimate Corrolive;

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Corrofive; by Spirit of Nitre into Red Precipitate, as the Chymists abusively call it; by Oyl of Vitriol, Oyl of Sulphur, or Oyl of Alum into Turbith Mineral, finally by the Acid Particles of Fire into Precipitate per se. These Instances are the more pertinent to our purpose, because Mercury is a more Fluid Body than Simple Water it self. And the last of them, tho' at first it appear somewhat Paradoxical, yet upon better examination it seems to be very reasonable; since Precipitate per se, as well as the rest of the newly mentioned Preparations of Quickfilver, may be revived into running Mercury, by being distill'd from Salt of Tartar, Quick-lime, or fuch other Alcalisate Bodies as are very apt to be wrought upon by Acid Salts, and thereby to disengage the Quickfilver that was Coagulated with them: and fince the Particles of Fire (which have been prov'd to be Acid) may penetrate Glass, and many times increase the weight of the inclosed Bodies, as Mr. Boyle has undeniably evinced by a great many Experiments: and finally fince Fire is the only Agent in this Preparation: ] The Sulphur of Lead deprives Quicksilver of its Fluidity. Volatil minous Salts are so powerfully fix'd by Acid Spi-

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rits as to endure an open Fire for some time; but they recover their former volatility, as foon as they are disengaged from the Acid Salts that fixed them, by the addition of any Alcalisate Body. All forts of Acid Salts do coagulate Milk: and the Coagulation of the Creamy parts of Milk into Butter, depends upon the internal Acid of the Milk; for if you throw any Alcalisate Salt into it, there can be no Butter obtain'd from it. The Acid Salts of Nitre do fo powerfully fix the vomitive Sulphur of Antimony, as to render it a good Diaphoretic. The Acid of Spirit of Wine instantly Coagulates Spirit of Urine; for, if both these Liquors be highly rectified, as foon as ever you have mingled them, the whole mixture loses its Fluidity, infomuch that tho' the Glass be inverted, not one drop will fall out : yea our Author affirms that lif Spirit of Wine highly rectified be kept for some months upon Salt of Urine in a gently digestive heat, they will unite together into a Calculus of a reddish Colour: and (which is yet more strange) four parts of this Stone will convert one part of new Spirit of Urine into its own Substance, and four parts of this one more, and fo on without any end: and that the Stone in the Bladder

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may be Generated after the same manner by the Plaistick Vertue of an Internal Acidum, joyned with the Salt of Urine, and being mixt with Gravel by Fermentation, concentrates into a Concreate Substance. We found by a Stone being taken out of a Humane Bladder, and Anatomized, by Distillation, to confist of Oyl, Spirit, and Volatile Salt, with a very large Caput Mortuum: but of this we shall fay no more at present, but leave theReader to judge what may be gathered by the foregoing Experiment; fo that it's believed, the Universal Spirit that Coagulates Elementary Water, as well as other Bodies into solid Substances, consists of Acid Particles.

FINIS.

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